THE Fisherman

—THE LONG ISLAND, METROPOLITAN NEW YORK EDITION—

November 10th—16th, 1983
Volume 18, Number 45

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ABOUT THE COVER:

Surf fishing can be cold, wet and downright uncomfortable but scores of casters would have it no other way. There is a fine essay on the sport beginning on page 20 and the Surf Report follows the regular weekly fishing report section.

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Managing Editor: William A. Muller

Associate Editor: Al Ristori

Contributing Editors: Pete Barrett, Tim Coleman

Director of Design: Richard S. Reina

Advertising Art Director: Carolyn Brewer

Production Staff: Virginia Burns, John Ciccariello

Advertising Manager: Stu Miller

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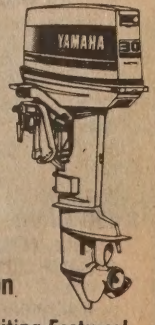

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EDITORIAL

TO VALUABLE TO BE CAUGHT ONCE!

For some fishermen this fishing season has been the best in memory; it depended upon where, when and how you fished. For some fishermen it was the worst season in memory; it depended on circumstances. Good or bad, in perspective the season has produced a ton of bluefish especially for the boat fishermen and it has been the bluefish abundance that has caused some black-eyes on the face of recreational fishing.

We began getting reports of the waste of bluefish from ports as far apart as Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey. The party boat captains said: "Gee, the waste is incredible. We're leaving hundreds of pounds to rot in the sun." Some patrons said: "The waste disgusted me. Is there anything you can do?"

We at The Fisherman have been extolling the virtues, benefits, and fun of releasing fish for almost as long as the publication has been in existence. We've pointed out that a surf fishing club such as the High Hill Striper Club released, in 1982, over four thousand pounds of blues and weaks over five pounds and stripers over ten pounds: that figure does not include the many small fish also released. When we speak of releasing fish many people tell us that you can't release a fish, that it will die. Others tell us they won't release their fish no matter what because of the effort involved to catch those fish. Others still tell us that they sell the fish they catch and thus will not release them.

Recently, we read an article by colleague Frank Daignault in one of our sister publications and his words brought back to us many thoughts that had been inspired years ago and then forgotten. Frank offered a quote from the famous angler Lee Wulff. "A game fish is too valuable to be caught only once." I sat back in my chair when I read that line and I remembered an American Sportsman's show—no, two shows—of some years back. One followed Lee Wulff into the eastern Canadian wilderness in search of the Atlantic salmon. Lee narrated over the fishing scenes and conveyed to us vividly how he felt about stalking and fishing for Atlantic salmon. We watched, our eyes glued to the magic color images of Lee Wulff making cast after cast after cast at Atlantic salmon in their native streams. They didn't want to eat; they were gearing up to spawn and food was not of major importance. Lee explained how he must offer the artificial fly to a salmon again and again in order to annoy the great animal to the point where it would strike out at the fly to rid it from its domain. The agonizing stalking, the arm-wrenching casting, the insects, the rain, the mud, and the rocks all working to defeat the angler, but Lee pushed on. Finally a salmon rose to his fly and he fought the fish on a wand so fragile that many anglers will not use such a flimsy rod on even small trout let alone 20 pound salmon. The rod arched deeply and the tippet strained and the fight raged on and on. Finally, the fish was subdued and with one swipe of his large muscular hand, Lee lifted that salmon from the river by its tail. He carefully unhooked the fish and placing it back into the stream so gently, began to revive it with back and forth motions against the current. In a few moments the fish began to wiggle and squirm and within a minute or two more, the great beast swam off into the stream to live, spawn, and fight another day.

The second incident was similar and involved Lee catching, fighting, and releasing a giant tuna of about 1,000 pounds. "A game fish is too valuable to be caught only once."

Strange, isn't it, how Lee Wulff can dissolve the arguments about keeping fish because of the effort one puts into catching them and how his legend makes the argument for selling so valueless. Lee Wulff says it like it is! Furthermore, he lives the philosophy that he espouses. Indeed, a bass, a blue, a weakfish or any game fish is too valuable to be caught only once. Does that mean we should never keep a fish? Certainly not! However, we should keep a fish for the right reasons and we should learn our lessons from Lee and not waste a fish. Many of us like to eat fish and so we keep a few for the table, but we can let the excess go to fight and thrill someone else on another day. We can also let the small ones go: I'm thinking of the bottom species especially when I say that. Of what use is a six inch flounder or a sea bass that is so small that it's all head and no flesh?

Sell your fish? The Fisherman is against that notion in most cases. If you need to sell those fish to feed and shelter your family fine; but if your income supports you and yours, then let the excess go to fight another day. And there

(Continued on page 32.)

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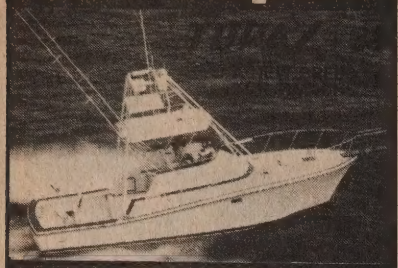
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NMFS TAGGING PROGRAMS YIELD RECORD RETURNS

Biologist Jack Casey, director of the NMFS shark tagging program based at NMFS labs in Narragansett, Rhode Island, reported that a sand bar shark at liberty for 17.5 years was recovered southwest of Tampa Bay, Florida. This is the longest time between tagging and recovery for any shark in the history of the program. The shark travelled 1,156 miles from the coast of Virginia to the place where it was recaptured. Casey also reported that a shark tagged near Hudson Canyon off New York was recovered off the coast of Costa Rica 6 months and 1,853 miles later setting a new long distance record for a tagged tiger shark.

The Miami-based Cooperative Game Fish Tagging Program announced a new record set by a white marlin tagged and released in 1970 off Ocean City, Maryland and recovered south of Block Island, Rhode Island after being at large for 4,305 days. Considering that the fish was almost certainly one year old or older at the time it was tagged, this marlin was at least 13 years old at the time it was caught again.

A blue marlin tagged and released off St. Thomas in the Virgin Islands was recaptured off Brazil. This is the second significant recapture that was originally released in Virgin Islands waters. The first occurred in 1976 when a blue released off St. Thomas was recaptured 6 months later off the Ivory Coast by a French tuna boat.

GIANT KILLER LOU FIGURELLI SNUFFS ANOTHER BEHEMOTH

The war to end ocean dumping is made of many small battles. Lou Figurelli and the Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island, New York, have apparently won such a battle, and it should stand as an example of what a small group of determined citizens can do.

For three years Figurelli and his group locked horns with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) over a plan to dump 1.4 million cubic yards of contaminated dredge materials in Raritan Bay. The proposed "experimental" dump is part of a larger scheme designed to kill two birds with one stone—cheaply dispose of dredge spoil from the bottom of New York Harbor (it is now barged six miles offshore) and fill in the numerous "borrow pits" created by past dredging and sand mining. But according to Figurelli, it wasn't birds they would be killing, but fish and lots of them. From the outset he has contended that the borrow pits are important fish habitat that support some of the best fishing spots in the lower bay. In addition, the dredged material is likely to contain toxic heavy metals, hydrocarbons, and PCBs.

The DEC, which approved the Corps' permit request, claimed the borrow pits are virtually devoid of marine life. Testimony to the contrary from local sport and commercial fishermen was not enough, so Figurelli hired a team of divers to go down into the pits and prove their point (which they did, bringing up buckets of fish) and sued the state to halt the dumping (which the courts did) until a thorough and unbiased study was made of the extent of life in the pits. Studies were conducted by the National Marine Fisheries Service and by scientists from the State University of New York.

At the eleventh hour the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which had previously supported the project, reviewed the studies and concluded that borrow pits are "a major source of marine life" and make a "significant" contribution to the bay's ecosystem. Thus, Figurelli's concerns were officially confirmed and the Corps and the DEC were shown to be negligent in their studies. As Figurelli told the "Staten Island Register" with characteristic candor, "We caught the state and the Army in a pack of lies, and we've got them on the run."

MONTAUK MARINE BASIN BASS TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Anglers in Montauk Marine Basin's 7th Annual Full Moon Striped Bass Tournament last weekend had fierce competition.

With fair weather prevailing, more than 50 anglers from three states entered the tournament which started at noon on Friday, October 21st and ended Sunday October 23rd at 2PM.

Carl Darenberg, Jr., director of the tournament, said a lot of fish were weighed in over 30 pounds, indicating a good fall run of bass this year in Montauk.

Mr. Darenberg awarded the cash and trophy prizes to the winning anglers at a Chowder and Beer Bash held after the competition.

This year's winner was Jean Konikowski, of Norwich, Ct., with a 48½ lb. bass, fishing aboard the Suzy III. She also took several other awards, including 1st place overall, women's division, heaviest bass in the boat division, a free trophy mount from Fish Unlimited Taxidermy of West Babylon, NY. Her largest fish also brought $300 cash prize.

Second and 3rd place categories resulted in a tie between Ray Konikowski, also of the Suzy III, from Norwich, Ct. and Glenn Dennis from Ridge, NY, fishing aboard the "Linesides." Both men weighed in a 42 lb. striped bass. Besides trophies, each received $150 in cash prizes. Mr.

Dennis placed first in last year's competition.

Fourth place also resulted in a tie, with two 39 pound striped bass weighed in by Feliz Pesinkowski, aboard the vessel Fish II, out of Hicksville, NY and another caught by Arthur Johnson, of Sound Beach, NY while fishing on his boat Art the Light. Each received trophies.

In the surf division, a 21½ pounder took the category, caught by Jason Colby of Montauk, NY. He also received a trophy for his prize.

The captain's special award, went to Dan D'Albora of Montauk, NY, who fished aboard the Jenny D. Dan weighed in the most fish that weighed over 30 pounds.

Special awards were given to Glenn Dennis for the smallest bass, a 4 pounder and the first fish weighed in, went to Dan D'Albora, a 38 pound bass.

The anglers all showed good sportsmanship, and a good time was had by all. Many will continue fishing for bass in Montauk during the fall run.

NEW FISHING CLUB IN NASSAU/QUEENS AREA

The Sea N' Surf Rod club is a recently formed fishing club in the Nassau/Queens area. The club is into all aspects of sport fishing and conservation of wildlife.

The club has and is working on many benefits for their members.

Anyone interested in obtaining more information about the club, can contact Vinnie Amodeo, president, at (212) 343-2820 or Russ Bracco, vice-president, at (516) 747-4997.

MONTAUK STRIPED BASS AND BLUEFISH SURF FISHING DERBY A HUGE SUCCESS

Sponsored by The Long Island Fisherman and Johnny's Tackle Shop, the first annual Montauk Striped Bass and Bluefish Surf Fishing Derby (Oct. 3-Oct. 30) attracted over 600 registrants. One of the best "fall runs" in years helped to make the Derby a memorable one and also provided some impressive winners in both the bass and bluefish categories. Joey Bragan, Sr. of Bohemia nailed down first place for overall striped bass with a trophy cow of 54 lbs. 12 oz. The same hard fishing angler also copped third place with a 44 lb. bass. Sam Rispoli of Hampton Bays nailed a 45 pounder to earn him second place in the Derby.

In the bluefish division, Gary Stephens of Montauk toppled the competition with an animal that weighed 20 lbs. 14 oz. on the Derby scale at Johnny's. Joe Eyermann had an 18 lb. 10 oz. blue for second spot and Mike Campanelli of West Islip finished out the standings with a blue of 16 lbs. 9 oz.

Bragan received a check of $300 for his big striper while Gary Stephen's huge blue earned him $200.

Surfmen catching the largest bass and blue of each of the four weekly segments earned gift certificates of $50 and $25 which were redeemable at Johnny's Tackle Shop.

Surf fishermen can look forward to an expanded derby for next season as plans are already under way to make it bigger and better.

NEW EDITION OF RULES OF THE ROAD

Another edition of **Navigation Rules for International and Inland Waters** has been published by Marine Associated with Brooktronics Corporation. It includes the 1983 COLREGS amendments and all changes to the rules.

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The law requires every mariner to know the rules and operate his boat according to the rules.

EAST BAY ANGLERS FISH FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

On Saturday, October 8, 1983 East Bay Angler's members donated their entire catch to the residents of the Holandia Senior Citizens complex in Baldwin, New York.

The award for the largest catch went to the fishermen aboard Dick Mendelson's "Meri" who returned with 76 pounds of bluefish fillets caught at the Linda Wreck south of Patchogue.

In all, over 100 pounds of fresh fish fillets were donated to the grateful senior citizens. The event will be an annual club competition.

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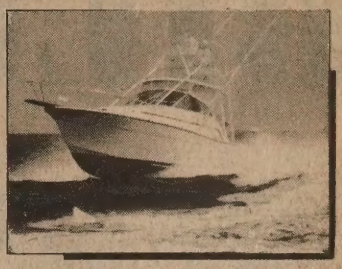

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—IN MEMORIUM—

BILL BACKUS

by Al Ristori

The "dean of Metropolitan outdoor writers" has passed on, but he won't be forgotten.

The Rod and Gun Editors of Metropolitan New York have suffered two major losses since this summer. First, the well-known Long Island author and former columnist for the New York Post, Bill Wisner passed away. Bill had been in ill-health for years and was inactive recently except for working on books from his home. The second loss was more shocking in that Bill Backus, a "youngster" of 84, was active to the end and seemingly able to overcome any physical problems that came along.

Bill Backus is generally accorded the title of "Dean of Metropolitan outdoor writers." He and Jimmy Salvato, of Paterson, were founders of the Rod and Gun Editors of Metropolitan New York, an organization which today includes most of the major outdoor writers from Philadelphia to Long Island. That was about 50 years ago, shortly before also founding the Salt Water Anglers of Bergen County—a club that had only 18 members in 1937 but now boasts of about 300 and is noted as one of the strongest and most active in the East.

Bill Backus on a recent jaunt to Montauk.

An Army veteran of World War I, Bill went on to graduate from Rutgers University in 1921 and began his career as a reporter for the New York Evening Journal. He joined The Record in 1925 and finished up as outdoor editor of the Elizabeth Journal. Bill was never one of those who simply wrote about what others did. He was an active and very proficient angler. About 10 years ago he came out to do some night bass fishing with me at Montauk, but ate something that didn't agree with him and wasn't able to get out that night. Fortunately, we did make a trip on the Viking Star the next day and came up with a nice mixed bag of cod and big sea bass.

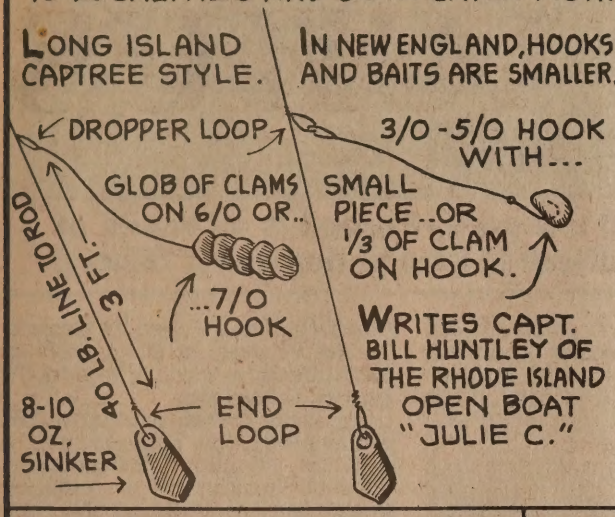
It's too bad that Bill never set down on paper all of the many experiences of his youth which would be an inspiration to future generations. I particularly remember his stories about working long hours at the paper in New Jersey and then driving out to Long Island to fish for bass all night at Moriches Inlet before returning to another day of work without sleep. In those days, a trip of that sort was a real adventure under the best of circumstances.

As a measure of the man, consider that Bill Backus took up skiing when in his sixties—and that despite later infirmities he was one of the most dependable attendees at meetings of the Rod and Gun Editors of Metropolitan New York. Over the years, Bill set many a youngster on the path to a happy life with a healthy outdoor sport. He loved his fishing and transmitted that love both personally and through his columns. I personally will never forget his assistance in the fight for the 200-mile fisheries limit and other conservation measures. Bill Backus has passed on, but he won't be forgotten!

FISHERMAN TIPS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

CODFISH RIGS DIFFER ACCORDING TO LOCALITIES AND BOTH CATCH FISH.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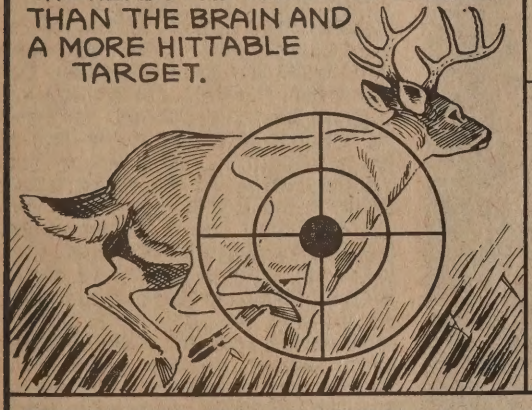
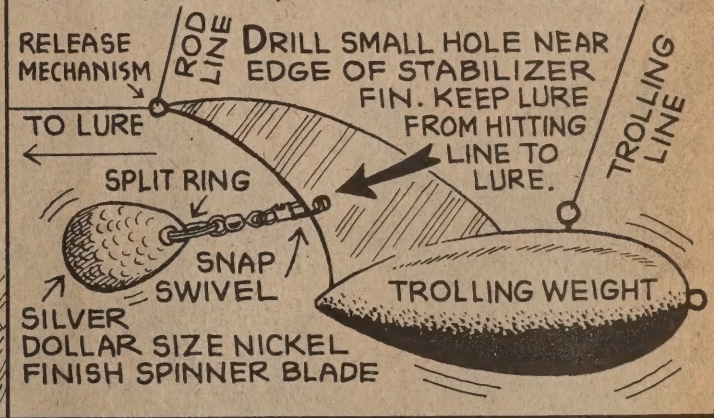
A DUCKBLIND SEAT IN A TEMPORARY SOGGY, MUDDY, MESSY BLIND CAN BE MADE OF THREE OLD AUTOMOBILE TIRES ON TOP OF ONE ANOTHER AND LASHED TOGETHER ON TWO SIDES.

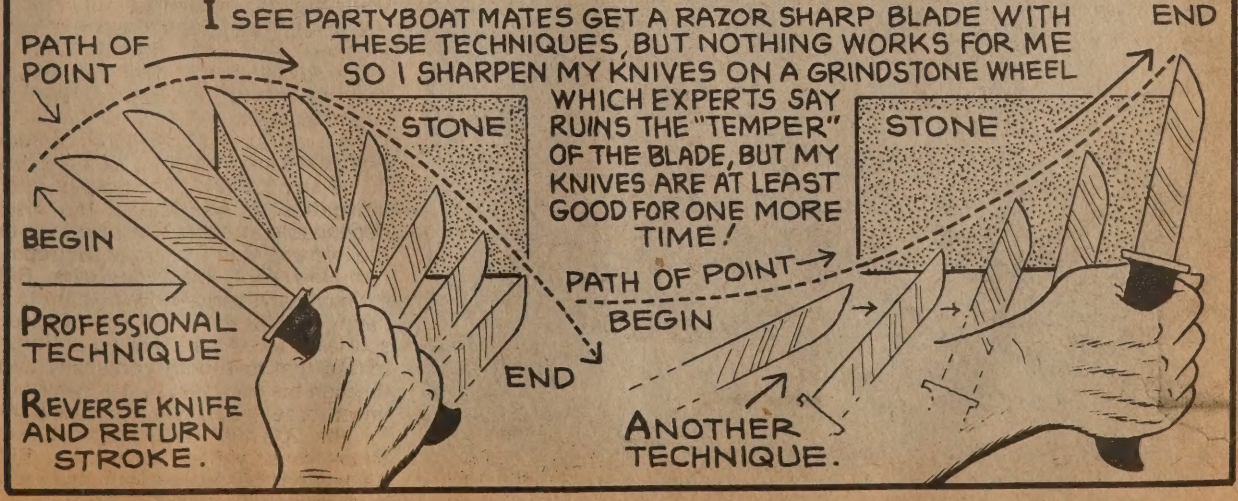
WHEN YOU GET A SHOT AT A DEER YOUR BEST CHANCE TO PUT HIM DOWN FOR KEEPS IS TO AIM AT THE HEART BEHIND THE SHOULDER RATHER THAN THE HEAD. THE HEART IS BIGGER THAN THE BRAIN AND A MORE HITTABLE TARGET.



A FLASHING ATTRACTOR AFFIXED TO TROLLING WEIGHT FIN DRAWS FISH TO DOWNRIGGER LURE AND IS EFFECTIVE ON FRESHWATER SALMON, RAINBOW TROUT, BROWNS AND LAKE TROUT.


RELEASE MECHANISM
ROD LINE
DRILL SMALL HOLE NEAR EDGE OF STABILIZER FIN. KEEP LURE FROM HITTING LINE TO LURE.
TROLLING LINE
TO LURE
SPLIT RING
SNAP SWIVEL
TROLLING WEIGHT
SILVER DOLLAR SIZE NICKEL FINISH SPINNER BLADE

TWO WAYS TO SHARPEN A KNIFE ON A WHETSTONE OR OILSTONE AS PRACTICED BY MATES, BUTCHERS AND OTHERS WHO NEED A SHARP BLADE FOR THEIR WORK.


I SEE PARTYBOAT MATES GET A RAZOR SHARP BLADE WITH THESE TECHNIQUES, BUT NOTHING WORKS FOR ME SO I SHARPEN MY KNIVES ON A GRINDSTONE WHEEL WHICH EXPERTS SAY RUINS THE "TEMPER" OF THE BLADE, BUT MY KNIVES ARE AT LEAST GOOD FOR ONE MORE TIME!
PATH OF POINT
BEGIN
STONE
PROFESSIONAL TECHNIQUE
REVERSE KNIFE AND RETURN STROKE.
END
STONE
PATH OF POINT
BEGIN
END
ANOTHER TECHNIQUE.

THE WINTER KING: A WORLDLY TRAVELER

by Matt Ahern

Ranging far and wide over the world's oceans, the cod is a favorite of sinker bouncers in our area and undisputed king of our winter fishery.

Every fisherman I know is intrigued by the cod—and well he might be.

The largest cod on record weighed 211¼ pounds and measured over six feet in length—which, as any sinker bouncer will agree, is some codfish! But the amazing fact is when this monster was first hatched from an egg 1/25 of an inch in diameter, it was a mere one-eighth inch in length!

Cod grow to impressive proportions. This 81 pounder set a recent line class record.

How such a fish survived the rigors of the sea in order to attain such an enormous size is a tribute to the cod's inherent ruggedness.

This great cod was captured in 1885 by commercial dory fishermen off the coast of northern Massachusetts. Although the chances of capturing another like it seem slim indeed, hope forever springs eternal in the breast of every dedicated codfisherman; one never knows when this long-standing record may be broken. Cod more than 75 pounds are rare, though occasionally one is reported over this weight.

Fifty and 60 pounders are not uncommon, for many cod of this weight are caught each year by both commercial and sport fishermen. For sportsmen, however, the average cod is about six to ten pounds. But even so, this means nothing to the dedicated codfisherman. He knows his next cod may easily tip the scales somewhere in the 30 and 40 pound range.

The Atlantic cod is roamer of the sea and its range is extensive. It is found on both sides of the North Atlantic Ocean, in water depths from six to 1500 feet, depending on the area fished and the time of year. Large catches are often made from the northern reaches of the Barents Sea, all around the coasts of Iceland, the southern coast of Greenland, thence along the coastlines of Canada and the United States, reaching as far south as North Carolina.

In our own area, west and south of Montauk, cod are available only during winter. From Montauk north (due to a freakish set of the Labrador Current), cod support a large commercial and sport fishery twelve months a year.

The cod's color is variable, depending on the bottom it inhabits. Most have some shade of green, but they can also be gray, gray-black, black, red-brown, or bright red. The latter can be very beautiful indeed. I recall catching one many years ago on a drop line while fishing the 17 Fathom Bank. For sheer beauty, it absolutely could not be excelled. It was a shame to keep it—but when you're 13/14 years old, everything is fair game.

The sides and backs of cod are sprinkled with green, brown, or

reddish irregular spots, usually of one color on any one fish. These spots sometimes extend to the dorsal fins. The lateral line, the long, slender line running the length of the fish along each side, is always of a pale hue, as is the stomach. Fins are usually the same color as the fish.

The body of a cod is tapered, one might even say streamlined, but not along the racy lines of a mackerel by any means. Handsome is as handsome does, in this respect. The cod's tail is heavy, broad, and nearly square. A small chin barbel, which is always equal to the diameter of the eye, is one of the outstanding characteristics of this fish. The cod has a large, heavy head and is possessed with a gaping mouth, containing small, pointed teeth which lie in bands. The teeth in the outer row of the upper jaw and the inner row of the lower jaw are somewhat enlarged. Its upper jaw and snout project slightly. The dorsal fins are always three in number; the anal fins, two. These are soft-rayed, containing no spines. Scales are small and round.

A cod grows rapidly only during its early life, reaching approximately two feet in length when three years of age. It is at this age when it spawns for the first time. But all cod are not alike in some respects. European cod, for instance, grow much slower than those in the western Atlantic, averaging but a foot at the end of three years. Cod in the Bay of Fundy split the difference, reaching about 20 inches at age three.

But we local fishermen are indeed lucky. It is those fast-growers we mentioned which arrive each winter along the south shore of Long Island and thence along the New Jersey coast and southward. These cod are known to migrate from the Nantucket Shoals off Massachusetts. This, plus their faster growth rate is thought to be due to the available food supply; but it is not certain. It is also known that these Nantucket cod are the only ones that do migrate. Cod on the far offshore grounds, such as the Grand Banks off Newfoundland and the Georges Bank off Massachusetts, maintain a year-round residency in these areas.

When life begins for the cod, it is but a mere speck on the surface of the vast North Atlantic. Depending on its size, each female spawns from three to ten million eggs at one time. (Some fishery scientists believe this may be higher!) Therefore, when fishermen consider the millions of parent fish, the total amount of eggs spawned each winter is astronomical—in fact, it is downright mind boggling. Unquestionably most eggs and newly-hatched fish perish either due to adverse weather conditions, or serve as food for other fish.

For spawning to be successful, a temperature of 47 degrees is necessary. This must be consistent for ten or eleven days. Higher temperatures shorten the period, and lower ones lengthen it. No doubt this is the critical period, for if hatched too far above or below the required 47 degrees, the fry become weak and unable to cope with the rugged life of the open sea. This is probably the reason commercial catches fluctuate so drastically from year to year.

For instance, in 1880, American commercial codfishermen landed a record 294 million pounds. Several years later it fell to less than 40 million pounds. Undoubtedly, the introduction of the efficient otter trawl has helped decimate the cod supply. And bear in mind that our now-departed "friendly" foreign fishing fleet raping our piece of the sea didn't help matters a hell of a lot. (When will we learn?)

In order for cod to maintain that large body, they must have an enormous appetite. And they certainly do. Forage foods consist of rock crabs, sea clams, large sea worms (which are rarely seen in their natural state), lobsters, small fish of all kinds, sand eels, squid and young herring. (The latter is a good tip for the sport fisherman, for this is what the commercial set liner used as bait.) Anything that will fit into its gaping mouth seems welcome. Cod are voracious and will attack anything—whether it is edible or not.

The following is a list of foreign objects discovered in cod stomachs over the years: metal scraps, wood shavings, rope, rubber, bits and pieces of clothing, small toys, jewelry, empty cigarette packages, flat tobacco tins, light bulb bases, and last but surely not least, a complete set of false teeth, upper and lowers. (Your guess as to the whys and wherefores of this last one is as good as anyone's.)

Fishermen who have been codfishing for any length of time can add to this list without difficulty. Some years ago I caught a cod that had swallowed a large rubber heel from a fisherman's work boot, and another that had the setting of a lady's engagement ring—minus the stone. And on and on.

Many beautiful sea shells would be unknown if it weren't for the cod's fondness for exotic fare. Indeed, years ago it was common to see collectors of sea shells poring through cod stomachs at commercial fishing ports.

Is it any wonder fishermen for hundreds of years have been intrigued by the cod?

Cod are on tap now. When you catch your next one, look it over with more than passing interest. Why, you might even see the Master's hand in the scheme of things. As Shakespeare said: "There are more things in heaven and earth, Horatio, than we dream of." And Shakespeare knew.

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SANDY HOOK FOR STRIPED BASS

Part Two—*by Mark Dennison*

If big striped bass are what you are looking for, then you may have to head for deeper water to make a decent catch. The only areas that I know of that are producing big fish with any amount of consistency are offshore lumps and wrecks in about 60 feet of water.

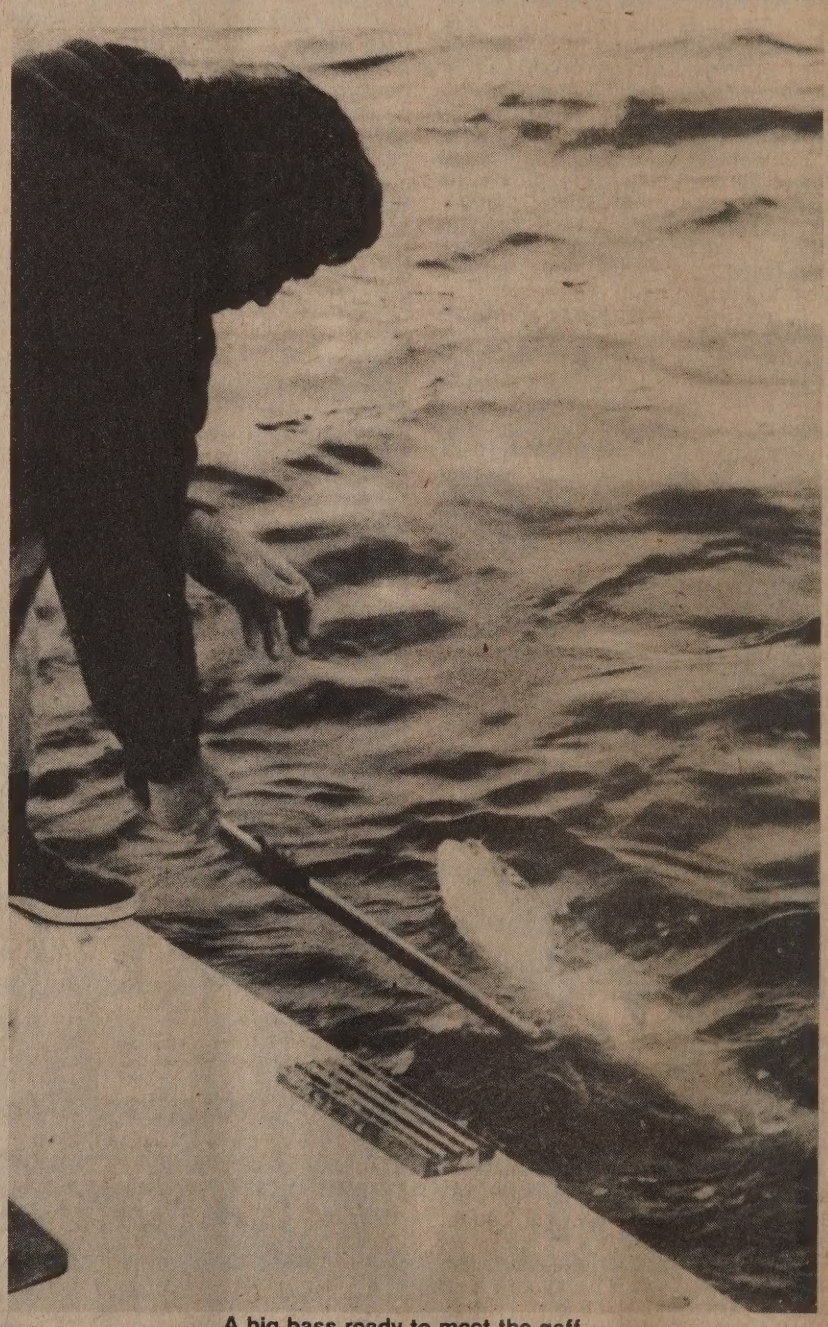
I have caught most bigger bass in these waters over the last five years and one benefit of fishing here is that you will not be overcrowded with novices like you might find in-between the channels. The coast chart #12326 shows these areas. If you can read Loran lines, the spots are within the 26950 line on the west, 26910 line on the east, 43680 on the south and 43730 on the north. That is a large square grid that covers a lot of water. Most of it is 50 feet deep, some almost 70 feet and the high spots are around 40 feet high off the bottom.

Unlike in the Bay itself or at the mouth, I prefer the outgoing tide here but I have caught on both tides. The water may get murky, which will change the water clarity sometimes during the tide. For instance, it may be clear at the start of the outgoing, but as the Bay waters move out the water may turn murky halfway into the tide. This may call for a change in lures. When the water is clear, I use the standard dark tubes on my rigs, but change to lighter colors when the water gets murky.

Loran is an absolute must piece of equipment for this fishing or you will not be able to get right on the exact spots. My Loran numbers have been recorded over a nine-year period and I won't give them out. You have to find your own. Look at the chart and find out the rough location of these lumps and wrecks, then when you troll in the area and you do find one, write down the exact location. Don't trust the so-called memory of the Loran; write it down in pencil in a book so you know you have the numbers.

I have a notebook with samples of recorder paper for each of my favorite lumps and the Loran TD's for each one. This notebook has papers from a few different approach angles so I can see the exact profile of the lump or wreck and how the fish lie on each tide. It took years of work, but it is an absolute necessity to catch bass with regularity.

If you don't have Loran, you can sometimes line up onshore structures, but determining ranges this way is slipshod. A foggy day leaves you with nothing. Without Loran, you can still work a pattern by running sets to the four buoys that mark the approaches to the channels. Find these on the chart. They are marked on the NW side by the BW whistle, the NE side is the Ambrose Light, on the SE corner is the BR bell buoy and on the SW corner is the red "S" buoy. By



A big bass ready to meet the gaff.

running trolling sets to each buoy or angles across the grid, you can still cover these waters pretty well.

My tackle is nearly the same as for inshore fishing, but I use 100 yards of wire and eight ounce drails to get me down the 40 feet to the bottom. The leader is 15 feet long, the drail is snapped onto the tail end just ahead of the umbrella rig.

I almost only always use umbrella rigs. Sometimes big swimming plugs having caught a fair amount of bass on the largest Danny plug. Since I'm down so deep, I use the mini umbrella rigs and I know that some good bass fishermen use only full sized umbrella rigs. I like the minis and feel I catch as good as anyone. Be careful of cheap umbrella rigs. Use the kind like the Spider, Sekora and Julians.

I have been fishing with downriggers over the last three years and the results are encouraging. I run four rods, two out to the side in rod holders like spoon rods, and two downriggers down the middle. This system allows me to corner very tight to work the bottom in a tight pattern.

I've also experimented with live bunker on downriggers here and although I have caught fish on them while slow trolling, the lures seem to work better. More experimentation is needed here.

Sometimes I have found bass schooled so tight on these humps that they could be diamond jigged or bucktailed just like in the old days when we used to jig them at the Rocks. I always keep a diamond jig rigged rod handy at all times. If I find the fish stacked up, we write down the Loran and then drift over the spot. If the tide is too strong, occasionally I'll anchor, but I have found that most of the time, the fish don't stay in one spot too long. It seems that by the time you get anchored and in position and then catch a few, they move on. I like drifting better and if you keep the engine at idle, the fish won't get spooked and you can keep over top of the school.

It is not possible to say everything about bass fishing in two short stories and I don't mean to say that my methods are the only ones that work. I learned long ago that there is always something to be learned from every bass fisherman, so I offer these two stories so that maybe someone will grab an idea or two from them. I haven't told everything; some of the secrets are still secrets, but if you put in the time you, too, will catch a number of bass.

Last year I fished three or four days a week from October through the second week in December and caught a total of 117 bass. A lot of days we scored a few fish, a lot of days no fish and a few days when we caught a lot of fish. Because of the bad times that have fallen on the striped bass, I released all but six fish that were bleeders when boated.

I love the bass and live all year just for that fall run of fish. I hope they come back strong.

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SAND SPIKE OPTIONS

by John Fritz

With developing popularity of fishing bait in the suds has come a variety of choices in the sand spike department.

To the genuine plug caster, a sand spike is a useless item of equipment. The bait fisherman, on the other hand, regards it as an indispensable object without which the success of a bottom fishing trip may very well depend. A surfcaster fishing bottom has many chores to attend to, unlike his compatriot slinging artificials and whose major concern is to change a lure when the present one fails to produce results. While it is true that there are occasions when fishing bottom where it is necessary to hold onto the fishing rod, in most instances the rod is set on the ground with its tip pointed skyward. Props improvised out of a piece of driftwood may suffice when seeking species such as flounder, but an angler in pursuit of any of the three surf game fish would be wise to entrust his rod and reel to something more substantial.

A sand spike is little more than a tubular object which is jammed securely into the ground at the water's edge and which holds the baited rod in an upright position. A device which, at first glance, may seem simple enough, but one which an experienced bottom fisherman, who tries his luck at a variety of beaches, will modify to suit the different conditions he encounters. In the not too distant past the only sand spike available in the average tackle shop was an 18 inch length of thin-walled aluminum pipe, a spike which served its purpose well when used on sandy shores which are washed by relatively calm waters. When forced into gravel beaches, such as found along most of our north shore, the angler soon discovered the weak point will break off, reducing the ability of the spike to retain its position under pressure; a detail of minimal importance when fishing for panfish. But the savage strike of a teen-sized bluefish could drag both rod and holder towards the water's edge. On the opposite shore of Long Island, surf fishermen using these short spikes when any appreciable surf was present, soon realized that the waves would repeatedly catch the line and draw the terminal rig in towards the beach. Thoughtful surf fishermen, unhappy with the manufactured items obtainable on the local market started fashioning sand spikes to fit their specific needs. The selection of these items offered in area tackle stores today is vastly superior when compared to the choice of just a few short years ago. However, even the spikes marketed today can be improved upon by home craftsmen using readily available items.

In some situations, a bumper-mounted rod holder is the best choice.

The most common material used in the construction of sand spikes at this time is the modern-day plumber's dream—the PVC pipe. This durable plastic tubing, easily obtainable at almost any outlet that offers plumbing supplies, is impervious to decay by either weather or saltwater. It can be purchased in any length desired, but more on that later on in this article. The diameter of the pipe is of primary importance at the start. It is my recommendation that the inside diameter should measure no less than two inches. This is a critical factor for oceanfront fishermen who are using 11 or 13 foot surf sticks fitted with the average sized butt cap. Those fishing the north shore beaches and content to use lighter tackle can get by with PVC pipe of a lesser diameter, but one never knows what tomorrow may bring, so wouldn't it be wise to obtain the item which will be useful in all instances. If the thickness of the side wall is 1/8 of an inch, it will provide the necessary strength to embed the spike into those coarse beaches on Long Island Sound. It is advisable that the spike be rocked back and forth while exerting constant pressure as it slowly penetrates the sand and works its way past the buried rocks which impede insertion. Stomping with one's foot or the use of a handy piece of driftwood will often result in frustration when the point encounters a substantial rock. This will only damage the leading edge of the spike. Take the time to ensure that the spike is firmly embedded; it may be necessary to change positions several times before working the point to the desired depth.

The length of the average sand

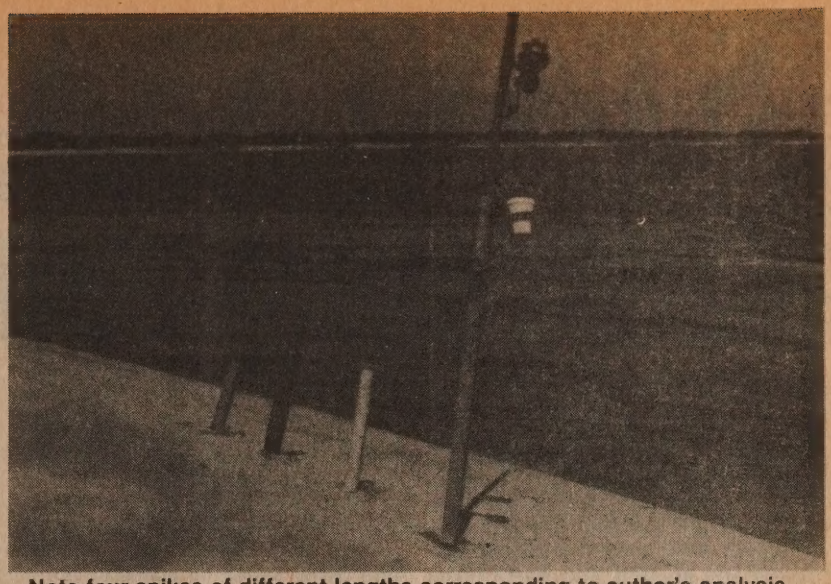
spike should measure approximately 24 inches. Use a hacksaw to make an angle cut from one side of an end to a point nine or ten inches above on the opposite circumference of the pipe. This cut will form a wedge which can be eased into almost any penetrable shore and will provide sufficient surface to prevent the spike from being pulled over when a powerful strike does occur.

There are two methods used as a stop to prevent the rod butt from resting on the sand. The most common stop is fashioned by drilling a centered hole completely through directly opposite walls of the pipe, roughly at a point 16 inches from the top edge. A corrosion resistant pin or bolt (brass is an ideal metal) is secured in place between these two holes. Just make sure that any sharp edges are sanded smooth to prevent snagging a precious pair of waders.

The other type of stop is, in reality, nothing more than a notch cut out of the upper edge of the spike into which rests the leg of a spinning reel. This design is of little use when using a short spike with a rod featuring a long butt section; in addition, it is not practical when using conventional, revolving spool reels or when using the four foot long spikes favored by many south shore surfmen. For the average person, the length of the butt section of an 11 foot spinning rod is 24 inches, if the leg of the reel is to be used as the stop the distance a rod must be lifted to clear the confines of the sand spike becomes awkward for most people unless they are of above average height. This struggle is intensified when a fish of considerable weight has the rod's tip pointed at the ocean in its attempt to gain freedom. The pin or stop which prevents the rod from being further recessed into the spike can be set anywhere from a low point of 16 inches as stated above or raised to a point within eight inches of the top edge. My preference is for the stop to be set at eight inches when using the four foot spikes and doubling that distance when the shorter spikes are to be used.

Although may surfmen use PVC pipe to fashion their oceanfront sand spikes, there are those, myself included, who prefer to use sections on angle aluminum. Steel or iron could also be used, but these metals are not only rapidly affected by saltwater but are of much heavier weight. Aluminum is an ideal metal for it combines lightness in weight with a resistance to corrosion when coming in contact with salt air and water, just make sure that the gauge of aluminum to be used is of sufficient strength to cope with the strain it might be forced to withstand. After cutting a point in one end to provide easier penetration into the sand, an ordinary short spike can be secured in place at the opposite end by using two stainless steel radiator hose clamps.

Aside from the fact that elongated sand spikes will hold one's line above much of the breaking surf and the accumulations of weed which is frequently present in the wash, the additional height will greatly reduce the amount of wind-blown sand which could clog a reel's delicate mechanisms. Along the south shore this is a common occurrence during the fall months when fierce northerly winds drive granules of sand along the beach and into the wash.



Note four spikes of different lengths corresponding to author's analysis of related length to conditions. Also, a cup attached to the spike can save repeated long treks from offshore bar to beach. See article for details.

There are occasions, though, when the use of a long spike can become a disadvantage and that usually occurs when there is a strong crosswind whipping down the beach. The surf, under the force of such winds, is generally moderate, but the effect of this wind will create a large loop in the line, from the rod tip to a point where it enters the water, a condition which makes it extremely difficult to detect a pick-up. By reducing the height of the rod above ground level, there will be less line exposed to the thrust of the wind.

On many beaches, particularly on the south shore, once the tide has approached its low point it becomes necessary to wade out onto either a parallel sand bar or a long, sloping shelf to cast into productive waters. It is not uncommon to be forced to leave one's gear high on the beach, often a considerable distance from where one is actually fishing. Since these more exposed sites of operation are often washed by the surf, the long sand spike is a valuable instrument for it will hold the reel above the sand laden rush of the surf. In addition, the incessant rush of water poses the problem of keeping an ample supply of bait on hand without retreating to the drier sections of the beach, a trek which seems endless when the fish are repeatedly taking the bait. This dilemma can be solved by simply fastening a container to the outside of the spike where it is above the reach of the waves and in a position where it will not be dislodged when lifting the rod out of the spike. One such device, is a plastic glass holder of the type which slides into the window recess of the car door and a styrofoam cup. It can be as elaborate or as simple as the angler deems necessary.

Surf fishermen who are fortunate to own a four wheel drive vehicle rigged for fishing the beach and who have vehicular access to areas of productive fishing can frequently disregard the use of portable sand spikes. Rod holders, usually mounted on the front bumper or onto the frame which holds the cooler in place, will serve the purpose when the vehicle is placed at the water's edge. The danger here is that one may extend himself too far when following a falling tide and become bogged down below the high water line, a precarious place to be if help is not nearby. The operator should use caution when driving below the flood tide mark and ascertain the stability of any low-lying areas before positioning his buggy on any such spot. It should be pointed out that it is often safe to drive over a soggy area as long as momentum is maintained, but once the vehicle comes to a halt the consistency of the sand may not be sufficient to support the stationary weight and the vehicle will slowly settle into the spongy sand.

Whether you are a beach fisherman who prefers to fish the bay shores for such species as flounder with your rod propped up with a stick, or whether you spend night-long sessions on the oceanfront seeking the mighty striped bass, there is one thought I must leave you with and that is to check that drag. As long as your bait is in the water one never knows what will be attracted to the hook. If the drag is set too tight, a strike may pull the rod from its holder. You wouldn't be the first, or the last, to lose a rod because of this simple oversight.

STAYIN' ALIVE

by Andy Regina

Dedicated north shore anglers keep a lonely vigil long after most fishermen have called it quits.

First the rental boats start to get hauled out, a few at a time until, before you know it, there are only a few left tied to the float for potential weekend business if the weather is good. Then the private boats start to disappear, one by one it seems, until the yards are virtually clogged with shrouded ghosts set on sawhorses. Before you know it, the party boats start running on curtailed schedules, mostly on weekends and holidays for some, and intermittent days for others. At times, even the boats remaining on daily sailing schedules don't get out, either because of lousy weather or lack of a sufficient number of paying customers. Rather than risk being shunted to another boat, leery of perhaps not getting out at all, many anglers give up and do not even try to go fishing any more once it gets to be about half-past October.

This could be the best time of the year for dedicated fishermen. Light crowds mean less fishing pressure and better potential success: bottom fish and game fish alike feed more intensely in preparation for long winter hibernations or lengthy fall migrations. The whole month of November can be highly productive for persevering anglers, and you don't even need a boat to be successful. This is the time of the year to haunt semi-deserted jetties, empty beaches, abandoned piers, docks and floats, and vacant marinas. This is the time of the year when lone wolf types thrive, needing no human companionship as they revel in their treasured solitude. This is the time of the year when the die-hards refuse to surrender; there is no truce in our war against what many call "normal" recreation. Fishing is our life and our life is fishing. We go on simply because we would wither-up and die if we stop. And we go on alone if we must, which is what usually happens in late fall.

The float at the town ramp in Huntington is the scene of some fine late fall mackerel action.

Take those vacant marinas, for instance. Once beehives of activity, they are mostly abandoned from early fall to the following spring. With all boats in winter storage, there is no one to try fishing in that area; most of the casual fishermen are as idle as their boats. Yet most marinas consistently produce fair to good fishing, evidenced at times by the "lucky" catch made at dockside from time to time, usually accidentally by some tyro. What happens is that the fishing potential there is overlooked, completely bypassed by anxious fishermen headed out to "the fishing grounds." We make it a habit to fish in earnest from our slip at City Island, as well as from the slips of friends docked in other locations. The list of available species is quite lengthy, and many times good catches of snappers, flounder and/or tommy cod prevail, but it doesn't end there, not by a long shot, at least not for the guy who does his homework and is willing to work hard at his sport.

Usually, there are resident blackfish indigenous to every marina, native fish that return every season to that small forgotten wreck nearby or to that tiny mussel patch on the outside port corner. Only by investigation can you discover this, either by fishing blind or locating viable structure visually via diving or depth recorders. You must be willing to devote time and effort here though, because in most instances, there are only a few blackfish on these small patches and the action may not be fast and furious by any means. Once discovered however, these small patches or pieces of bottom can and will produce consistently, provided they are rested on a regular basis and not completely fished out.

Porgies are another potential marina species, fond of the tiny shrimp, worms, and shell life found on the many pilings. Late fall may have seen the porgies long gone, but if warm weather and particularly warm water temperatures persist, you could catch porgies into November. Trouble is, no one knows this because no one fishes for porgies this late in the year, not in shallow water anyway; remember what I said though—if water temps run consistently warm, the porgies may still be there. I only stumbled upon this phenomenon one fall by accident, as I was fishing for the then prevalent lafayettes that we were blessed with at that time. The sand porgies, bigger than the tiny lafayettes, were a welcome addition and proved worthy adversaries when caught on the tiny tackle employed for those smaller fish. In fact, this led to our use of very light and even ultra-light tackle in all of our marina fishing, a fact that was instrumental in opening up a whole new world of fishing pleasure.

As the tiny tackle heightened our enjoyment, we began to see a marked increase in our catches also, and our continued successes made us consider using that same small stuff for a lot of other marina species. The first time we caught a white perch, it was a toss-up who'd win—that fish or the tiny rod. Naturally, the rod won and a 1½ pound jumbo perch was soon flopping on the dock. The few people in attendance thought it was a porgy, a big porgy and my own fishing partner claimed that it was the first time he ever heard of white perch in the Sound. I knew better. I knew that the perch loved brackish water and that they traveled in big schools. I also knew that they very often haunted marinas, for that minute marine life clinging to the pilings, as mentioned before. One more bit of perch info that I knew was then put to use: their penchant for small jigs. Once I started to sweeten my tiny quarter-ounce jigs with a bit of sand worm, my perch catches not only became consistent, but consistently greater.

The same thing with mackerel. Most people don't even know we have mackerel in the Sound every fall too, not only in springtime. As there are but few boats on the water now, our mackerel are caught close to shore, from docks and floats as well as jetties. These macks rarely go over a pound, but can surprise you at times. Once, fishing from the old End Dock at City Island, a school of big Boston mackerel raised hell with the few anglers fishing there, breaking all but one of the half-dozen cane poles being used, and a couple of conventional rods as well. Now we know better. Light spinning rods have replaced the bamboo poles and midget lures belie the need of spearing baits. Not only is more sport and more fun thus provided, but the result is that more fish are now caught via the sophisticated tackle. Late last October, waiting to meet a friend at the town ramp in Huntington Harbor, I was reminded of this fall mackerel invasion while watching several youngsters having a ball catching those small game fish right from the very float of the ramp.

Later on, usually after the October full moon, striped bass put in a final showing along our beaches prior to their annual migration. This time of the year is what surfcasters' dreams are made of, as bass feed ravenously on bait and lures alike, bass that can and do get into the 40 and 50 pound class at times. We don't wait until that time to tangle with our bass though, happy to have our hands full with as many smaller fish as we can handle on the tiny tackle we use. Schoolies up to the ten pound class are the norm, resident bass that seem to be in attendance all year long, from early spring to late fall. Probably using the marinas as nurseries, stripers can be as small as five inches and should not be included in snapper catches by any means. Now the bass must be 24 inches in length, from point of snout to fork of tail, to be legally kept. This new law will probably increase the number of short fish to be had within the marinas and great care should be taken to release all undersized fish without harm. We have found that tiny quarter ounce jig and worm combos and small plugs really rack up the bass, and lean heavily on an avocado colored three inch jointed swimmer for most of our successes. Big bass are also available inshore, and are usually caught at night by the guys soaking fresh mackerel or bunker chunks. At times the proximity of huge bass to shallow shorelines can be amazing, but it does occur every year at about the same time—late summer and fall, and always at night.

The regularity of accidental bluefish catches made by bass men still has not convinced many anglers that there is another viable fishery to be had in the fall. Still, wiser heads go with the flow and accept whatever bounty Nature provides. We get most of our blues on bait now, those fresh chunks of mackerel or bunker that usually prove irresistible to prowling bluefish, especially at night. Most of the time it's straight bottom fishing that produces best too, a fishfinder rig in conjunction with a sinker heavy enough to stay anchored in one place. Sometimes we score with bait by live-lining it into the currents at mid-depths, kept at desired levels by floats and/or clinch sinkers. The darkness of the night adds an additional mystique to an already-known exciting technique, as sight is replaced as the primary sense by the sense of touch. Here you actually feel the fish pick up the bait and run off with it, your line peeling off a free-spooled reel as you sweat and wonder when to set the hook.

In late fall, we welcome a small bottom feeder known as the tom cod or tommy, a diminutive second cousin to the true cod and one that makes up for its lack in size by its abundance in numbers. Once again, marinas and piers prove ideal tommy-catching locations and once again, it appears that nights are more productive than days. Small hooks and small worm baits fished on or directly above the bottom should net you all the tommies you want. This can be a large order at times, as this fish is not available in markets and its delicious flesh can only be obtained through individual catches by sport fishermen, via hook and line. We usually rig for flounder and, using small worm baits, apply standard flounder fishing techniques to catch tommies, a process that quite naturally sees many mixed bags of flounder and tommies at day's end.

As waters really get cold and fishermen are at a premium on the Sound, you still can get out and catch fish right through the end of the year, if you're so inclined. Late fall catches must include striped bass (which I have caught as late as on Christmas Eve), flounder, eels, tommies, mackerel, herring, and on rare occasions, whiting. It's simply a matter of getting out there as much as you can and staying active long after others have quit. We call it, "Stayin' Alive!"

ASSESSING THE TUNA SITUATION

Part One—*by Al Ristori*

An excellent run of giants and the best school tuna action in years may well be the result of a federal conservation effort begun in the mid-1970s.

By all accounts, we've just completed the most successful bluefin tuna season in the Rhode Island/New York/New Jersey area in many a year. The giant tuna fishing, particularly off Block Island, was outstanding—and school tuna of all sizes provided the best action in recent memory throughout the region. All of which seems to indicate that the Federal conservation effort started in the mid-1970s has paid some dividends, despite many questionable decisions and just plain screw-ups.

The conservation program was intended from the beginning to protect the 1973 year class, the only strong one to come along since the West Coast purse seiners severely depleted the formerly vast bluefin population on the Atlantic Coast during the mid-1960s. By keeping the East Coast seiners off those 1973 year class schoolies and reducing the angling catch via limits, the survival rate was sufficient to produce enough small giants to maintain that fishery. This was particularly important to the Mid-Atlantic area because smaller giants have traditionally been most abundant south of Cape Cod, while the biggest fish tend to go further north.

While the sharply reduced quota in 1982 was hard on anglers and charter boat owners (especially those operating in New York Bight), the benefits of the international agreement that led to the minimal allocation will be noted for years to come. Not only was the overall Japanese longline catch greatly reduced, but they were shut out of the Gulf of Mexico spawning grounds altogether. The Japanese found these wintering fish about 10 years ago and soon built their catch up to the 10,000 level—removing both the giants and the spawning potential. With the Japanese out of the Gulf, we're faced with only a much smaller 'incidental catch'' from American swordfish longliners. Therefore, the 1973 year class (which may have been spawning for the first time in the last year or two) was relatively protected on the spawning grounds. The results seem to provide hope for the future. There were lots of small school tuna caught along the Mid-Atlantic coast this summer, and Roger Hillhouse (plane spotter for the tuna seiners)

An outstanding run of giant bluefin on the Block Island grounds produced this 970 pounder, taken aboard the Dawn.

reports having seen great numbers of "zeros" while looking for skipjack. Indeed, the seiners had to open their nets several times when they set on mixed schools that were primarily baby bluefin.

Though the Japanese bluefin quota for this year was doubled, just as ours was, that catch will be made in the winter far to the northeast. Due to the restrictions in the Billfish and Sharks Fishery Management Plan which keeps foreign longliners at least 100 miles off the coast during the recreational fishing seasons, the Japanese longline effort has virtually ceased in our waters. There was only one boat fishing in January, three in both July and August, and two in September. We finally had 100 percent observer coverage and they were able to report that there are no bluefin tuna caught at all!

The Japanese bluefin catch will probably consist of medium fish caught within the 200 mile limit of Canada or even in international waters during the November to February period. Thus, by a very roundabout means, we've succeeded in eliminating Japanese bluefin fishing in our waters without including tunas in the 200 mile limit. Of course, it was the intense pressure for including tunas in our fisheries jurisdiction that brought about this situation. Much credit for this should go not only to the American Tuna Action Committee, National Coalition for Marine Conservation, Atlantic Professional Boatmans Association, and other groups fighting for the tuna inclusion, but also to Carmen Blondin of NMFS, Congressman Ed Forsythe (R-NJ), and a Reagan Administration State Department that was on our side—rather than representing the best interests of foreign nations as had previously been the case.

The other important aspect of the conservation program involves the U.S. purse seiners. Though they did lay off the 1973 year class as they were growing up, the heavy seining continued on other year classes. About 600 tons a year of the school fish were being taken and there was one year when the regulations weren't implemented fast enough and the seiners virtually doubled that figure. The result on the fishery has been obvious and long-lasting. Scientists at NMFS were well aware that this constant pressure on the young fish was preventing any real recovery, but the purse seiners were always able to work out another "sweetheart" deal despite the sad state of the resource.

With the reduced quota last year, the purse seiners should have been out of the bluefin fishery altogether, except for a small by-catch in their skipjack fishery. The scientists had no use for their catch rate information (working with spotter planes, the purse seiners could catch school tuna almost to the point of extinction), and the only justification for any fishery at all last year was for monitoring purposes. Nevertheless, the purse seiners were given a huge (and phony) by-catch allocation—and at the last minute were given the right to turn that into giant tuna instead. Lo and behold, the seiners were able to catch skipjack without a by-catch—and then they overfished the allocation on giants. Actually their "giants" were "minis" of the 1973 year class with lots of mediums mixed in.

This year the seiners got a huge helping of giant tuna—325 tons. In addition, they had 100 tons of schoolies as by-catch in the skipjack fishery. As I predicted in the spring, the purse seiners were able to conduct a very successful skipjack fishery without catching many schoolies. According to NMFS, their school tuna haul amounted to just 8.4 tons—allowing them to take the rest in giants. Actually, they totaled 427.7 tons of giants. That means they overfished the giants by 11.1 tons, which continues a history of exceeding their quotas. The purse seiners did the same thing last year and I was told that the excessive catch would be deducted from this year's allocation. Instead, they received far more than double what they had in 1982—a nice bonus for the five boats involved, most of which are involved in interlocking ownerships. If YOU overfish, the full force of the law will come down on you—but the purse seiners have gotten away with it year after year.

The effect of the change in direction for the purse seiners from catching great quantities of cheap schoolies to smaller numbers of expensive giants has been beneficial in one respect. With the schoolies not being pounded early in the year, there's been a strong resurgence in that fishery—and a great deal of hope for the future. Last year there were few schoolies along the Jersey coast because they migrated further offshore. However, Virginia anglers had great fishing in June and early July. This year they moved further north and a little closer inshore, providing a good shot all along the line. The fishery lasted far into the fall and was reminiscent of the Mud Hole tuna chumming in the 1960s. That's what two years of no purse seining can do for you!

On the other hand, the purse seiners are now catching great numbers of rather small giants—fish which are just becoming spawners. This may hurt the recovery prospects, and certainly puts a sharp dent in the fish available to boats fishing south of Cape Cod. This trade-off of giants for schoolies looked like a good deal a few years ago when the seiners were catching the older giants whose days were numbered in any case. Now that they're taking loads of the mini-giants and mediums we've been protecting all these years, the trade-off becomes questionable.

In Part II, I'll review the proceedings at the recent ICCAT Advisors' meeting, and look into the prospects for the future on bluefins.

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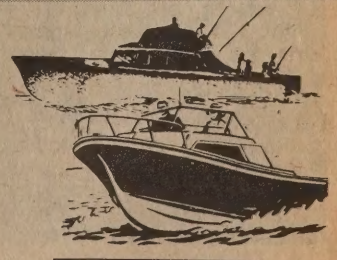

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CONFESSIONS OF A SURF ADDICT

by Carl Buxbaum

I began to question my sanity. There I was, crouching among the rocks under the Montauk Lighthouse, trying to keep warm as I waited for the tide to start running. At least another half hour would have to pass before any fishing effort might pay off. The late October northwest winds were picking up and would soon make casting difficult. The moonlight could not penetrate the overcast sky, so I knew that once I started casting there would be an unseen belly in the line and no way of telling where or how my plug would be working. I thought of going home, but had already driven over a hundred miles after work, making certain to arrive early enough to claim my lucky rock before another fisherman chose it as his casting platform. A light rain began to fall. My hands got wet, and I started to shiver. About 20 other surfcasters were in view. Most kept in constant motion to stay warm. The late arrivals were hunting for good rocks from which to cast. If one of the others abandoned the scene, I thought, I would go home. All remained. They were crazy; so was I. Speculating about the causes of this group madness helped me forget my discomfort.

Besides the bodily discomforts associated with surfcasting—staying up all night, contending with the cold, and being pounded by waves—it is a notoriously unproductive method of fishing. Boat fishermen nearly always do better and are invariably more comfortable. Some who fish from shore have little choice. They may be highly vulnerable to seasickness, afraid of boats, or unable to manage the financial outlays required to gain access to a boat. Others, it seems, just love prowling the beach at night and enjoy the choice between solitude and the camaraderie that forms among regulars on any particular beach. Of those who seek camaraderie, many spend more time talking than fishing. They appear uninterested in fish, and it may be suspected that they do not wish to handle any. The interesting question is: why do people who primarily want to catch fish, and have access to boats and comfort, choose to work the surf?

The serious surfcaster is working against the odds. He knows it, and that is at the heart of his madness or addiction. The addiction is very much like that of compulsive gambling, but others rarely frown upon the surfcaster because the risks of tangible losses are at a minimum. All of the gambling emotions are experienced: depression, the feeling of a lucky streak around the corner, confidence in one's skill and knowledge, the frequent loss of that confidence, and the elation that comes with an occasional jackpot. Compare surfcasting to playing slot machines. Each cast is similar to pulling the lever on the one-armed bandit. You pick a section of beach and a lure, based on a mixture of information and hope, very much as the gambler chooses the slot machine he thinks is due to pay off. Each pull on the slot machine can produce nothing, modest winnings, or the joy of a big prize. Each cast can produce nothing, a small fish, a very nice one—say a 15 pound bluefish—or that once in a lifetime striped bass that keeps you waiting till morning to see it push the tackle shop's scale over the 50 pound mark. You think you have some idea of your chances, but you never really know what any one cast will produce.

Each trip to the beach is similarly a gamble. Even when there have been

Dedicated surfmen often go to extremes in search of fish and solitude.

reports of great fishing on a particular stretch of beach, you and an army of other casters may fail to take a single fish on the next tide. On the other hand, I will never forget the night I was alone on the beach after a week or more of discouraging fishing reports and caught eight weakfish from six to nine pounds, a teen-sized bluefish and two teen-sized stripers. Not quite a jackpot but an unexpected full house. Any time at least one of each species I pursue in the surf is landed, my mind registers the occasion as a full house. I was elated, thankful for my luck and proud of my skill. The most depressing rub is when the guy fishing next to you gets a striped bass of more than 40 pounds. You were using the same plug, working it the same way, and did not even get a tap all night. But that is what keeps you going back to the surf—no matter how tired after work, cold, and generally uncomfortable. I could not go home early the night I acknowledged my addiction because it might have been the night for my once in a lifetime striper. There is always the hunch that a pod of big, hungry fish is moving in your direction and planning to arrive the instant you retreat to the comforts of home. There is always the next pull on the slot machine.

Does gambling explain it all? No. It helps us understand the addictive nature of surfcasting but it neglects another strange piece of some sportsmen's psychology. The boat fisherman, too, is gambling. His odds are improved, however, as are those of the gambler who chooses blackjack over the slot machines. Instead of counting and remembering cards, the boat fisherman uses a depth recorder, greater mobility, and trolling to locate fish. The surfcaster, on the other hand, likes to do things the hard way. He wants the increased challenge and consequent pleasure of pitting himself against the fish without the aid of fancy boats and sophisticated electronics. In a primitive manner, he wants to go one-on-one with the fish and have his feet planted in the fish's territory. Yes, he wants to catch fish but he wishes to do so in a particular way. The objective is to work hard at it, to feel the plug vibrating at the end of the line and to savor the instant when he feels a fish hit. During the fight a direct connection is felt with the fish, and the surfcaster knows **he** caught the fish. His fish was not tracked down electronically and caught by a boat towing a lure. This is not meant to imply that the boating angler is less sporting. In fact, he is simply more sensible and efficient in doing all he can to improve his rate of success. He is a better gambler. The point is that surfcasters are a strange breed. They seek to test their luck and skill against the heaviest odds. Some of them compromise and improve their chances of hooking big fish by using bait—live eels in particular. Even they, however, seem to turn the bait out of frustration and might otherwise prefer to take big fish on artificials. The surfcaster is not only addicted to the gamble, but to a personal struggle against nature as well. Therefore, he may also be compared to the deer hunter who has given up his fine, scoped rifle for a bow and arrow. The purpose, it seems, is to toughen the test of personal luck, skill and stamina.

What does this constant testing do to surfcasters? It makes them a moody lot—sometimes impossible to live with. Their compulsion drives them down to the beach only to be repeatedly frustrated. Depression, grumpiness, scepticism, and argumentativeness often develops. As I have grumbled and moaned with other casters on the beach, I could not help but wonder why we subjected ourselves to those feelings. Why not get a boat? Why not play golf or jog instead? The answer is simple. You cannot remove from your mind the one or two nights each season when, sometimes unexpectedly, the fishing was great. I have at least one such

(Continued on next page.)

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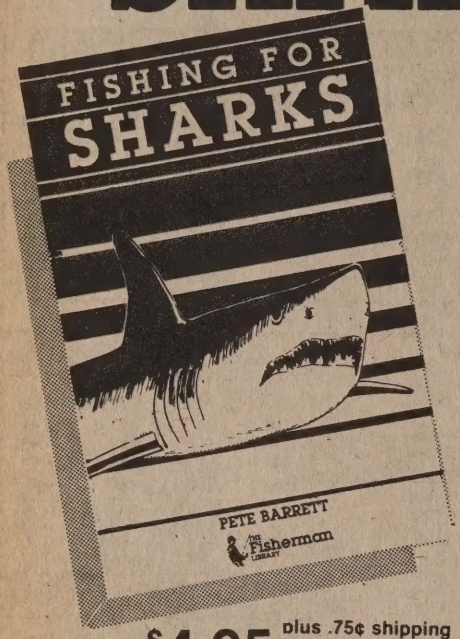

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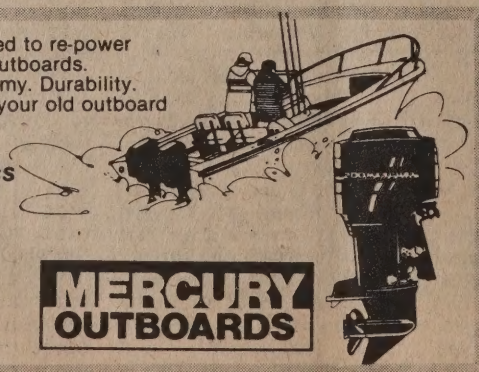

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night each season, and it cannot be driven from my memory. On these nights depression is replaced by elation and joy. Surfcasters become friendly, lively, talkative and optimistic. They are pleasant company. The emotional rush feels great, and often the wonderful feeling of being lucky, knowledgeable and skilled lingers for weeks.

Some of us are more easily pleased than others. As with other additions, say drugs or alcohol, long-time surfcasters build a tolerance for catching fish. They require more frequent and larger doses of fish to satisfy their habits. In the first season, a catch of two or three bluefish of about eight pounds each is likely to produce a high. Five years later a similar catch may leave the same caster with lingering withdrawal symptons—that is, depressed and grumbling. His habit now requires and larger fish. For some, only a cow striper over 50 pounds will ease the pain. Others, like myself, experience the good fortune of building only a moderate tolerance for fish. I get high easily. In fact, as I look out at the huge expanse of sea and shoreline before me, it seems impossible that fish would choose to be within my casting range. When any fish strikes, therefore, I get a rush of excitement and find it hard to comprehend my luck. Last season I caught more fish than usual but not a single really big striper. I did, however, land some nice sized weakfish and am quite satisfied with one particular night. After casting steadily along a sand beach for about four hours, the sea seemed dead. The tide had fallen to slack low, and I accommodated to one more fishless trip. But it was a pleasantly warm, moonlit night for early November, and there would not be many others like it until May or June. I thought of the withdrawal symptoms, commonly called "cabin fever," I would experience in a month or so. I could not go home. A walk of around a mile along the beach brought me to a sand bar I sometimes waded out to at low tide. There was only about an hour left to fish this spot before the rising tide would make it impossible to wade safely back to shore. The first cast was made without hope but, on the second crank of the reel handle, the rod was nearly yanked from my unprepared grip by what turned out to be a 13 pound bluefish. On the next cast, the plug was assaulted with even greater vigor. The drag on the reel seemed to run forever. Awhile later, and about a hundred yards down the beach, I gaffed an 18 pounder. I scrambled back to the sand bar and managed to land another big bluefish before the tide drove me back to shore.

I loved that night and still feel great when it creeps into my thoughts. The memory will sustain my addiction for at least another season. It is my turn now. I can feel it. This season I'll get my first ever 50 pound striper. You can bet on it.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables: To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion table. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that area station above. Example: Shinnecock Inlet . . . −0 50 is listed under "On SANDY HOOK." −0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	BREAKWATER HARBOR AM	BREAKWATER HARBOR PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGEPORT AM	BRIDGEPORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THURS.	11:25	11:55	12:00	12:20	12:00	12:15	1:00	1:05	3:15	3:00	2:45	3:00	11:25	11:55	11/10
FRI.	—	12:15	12:55	1:15	12:55	1:05	2:00	2:05	4:15	4:05	3:35	3:50	—	12:20	11/11
SAT.	12:45	1:05	2:00	2:15	1:50	1:55	3:00	3:05	5:20	5:30	4:30	4:45	12:55	1:20	11/12
SUN.	1:45	2:00	3:00	3:15	2:40	2:50	4:00	4:05	6:15	6:35	5:25	5:45	1:55	2:15	11/13
MON.	2:45	3:00	3:55	4:10	3:35	3:45	4:55	5:00	7:05	7:30	6:15	6:35	2:50	3:10	11/14
TUES.	3:40	3:55	4:45	4:55	4:30	4:40	5:35	5:50	7:50	8:15	7:05	7:25	3:40	4:00	11/15
WED.	4:30	4:50	5:25	5:40	5:20	5:30	6:15	6:30	8:30	8:50	7:50	8:10	4:25	4:45	11/16
THURS.	5:20	5:35	6:05	6:25	6:00	6:10	6:50	7:10	8:50	9:15	8:35	8:55	5:10	5:30	11/17

On Sandy Hook

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	−0 01
Red Bank, Navesink River	+1 48
Long Branch	−0 34
SHARK RIVER INLET	−0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	−0 12
Seaside Park	−0 33
Mantoloking bridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	−0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	−0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	−0 26
Great Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 44
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNSENDS INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	−0 02
Rehobeth Beach	−0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 41
SHINNECOCK INLET	−0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	−0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Hart's Cove	+1 30
Pontunk Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	−0 38
Democrat Point	−0 38
Coast Guard Station	−0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville (Brown Creek)	+3 39
Heckscher State Park	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	−0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	−0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	0 00
Beach Channel Bridge	+0 38
J.F.K. Airport	+0 26

On Bridgeport

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	+0 08
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Hbr. entrance	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0 05
Herod Point	−0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 05
Horton Point	−0 20
Truman Beach	−0 42
Falkner Island	−0 13
Sachem Head	−0 10
Branford Harbor	−0 07
New Haven Harbor entrance	−0 08
Milford Harbor	−0 07
Stratford, Housatonic River	+0 27
Shelton, Housatonic River	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor entrance	−0 03
Saugatuck River entrance	−0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	−0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On New London

Orient	+0 36
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Three Mi. Hbr., Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land, Napeague Bay	−0 14
Montauk Inlet	−0 25
Montauk Point, north side	−1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington, Fishers Is. Sound	−0 33
Noank, Mystic River ent.	−0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove entrance	−0 01
Norwich	+0 12
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook Jetty	+1 10
Lyme, highway bridge	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On Willets Point

Little Neck Bay	−0 10
Execution Light	0 06
Manhasset Bay	−0 01
Hempstead Harbor	−0 11
City Island	−0 03
Rye Beach	−0 28
Port Chester	−0 09
Mamaroneck	−0 08
New Rochelle	−0 24
Davids Island	−0 02

On Breakwater Harbor

CAPE MAY POINT	−0 10
Miami Beach	+0 17
East Pt., Maurice River Cove	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	−0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River entrance	+0 33

On New York

Jersey City	+0 07
George Washington Bridge	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil, W/RR bridge	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburgh	+3 42

On Newport

Sakonnet	−1 10
Tiverton (between bridges)	+0 21
Beavertail Point	−0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Point	+1 10
Bristol	+1 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayatt Point	+0 12
Pawtucket, Seekonk River	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	−0 08
Point Judith Hbr. of Refuge	−0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Block Island (Old Harbor)	−0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/10	6:44	4:44
FRI. 11/11	6:45	4:43
SAT. 11/12	6:46	4:42
SUN. 11/13	6:47	4:41
MON. 11/14	6:48	4:40
TUE. 11/15	6:49	4:39
WED. 11/16	6:50	4:38

Moonrise/Moonset

DAY / DATE:	RISE:	SET:
THU. 11/10	12:07PM	9:25PM
FRI. 11/11	12:46PM	10:25PM
SAT. 11/12	1:19PM	11:25PM
SUN. 11/13	1:48PM	—
MON. 11/14	2:14PM	12:25AM
TUE. 11/15	2:37PM	1:25AM
WED. 11/16	3:01PM	2:25AM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	Last Qtr.
11/4	11/12	11/20	11/27

The Original Knight SOLUNAR TABLES

The schedule of solunar periods below will help plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during the time when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.

The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold typeface. The minor periods are shorter in duration and the lighter typeface.

	AM		PM	
	Minor	Major	Minor	Major
Thurs.	9:15	3:05	9:45	3:30
Fri.	10:10	4:00	10:40	4:25
Sat.	11:00	4:50	11:30	5:15
Sun.	11:45	5:35	—	5:55
Mon.	12:05	6:10	12:20	6:35
Tues.	12:50	6:50	1:00	7:10
Wed.	1:25	7:30	1:40	7:50
Thurs.	2:05	8:05	2:15	8:30

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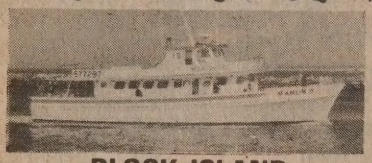

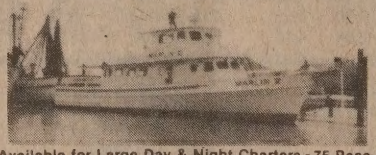

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Winners of Montauk Marine Basin's Full Moon Tournament included from left to right: Jason Colby, Glenn Dennis, Jean Konikowski, Ray Konikowski and Dan D'Albora.

East End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Some quite good catches of striped bass on the troll and on the diamond jig are finally being made out Montauk way. Blackfish are biting the bottoms out of many boats and cod are making a good initial showing. Of course, the bluefish, being bluefish, are continuing to smash any bait you care to present to them with savage fury.

MONTAUK

Captain Ron Grandinetti fishing with Bob Santiago on Sunday had 37 blackfish between them from 5 to 10 lbs. 6 oz. working Little Gull Island and Mad Dog Reef. Green crab was the bait.

Captain John DeMaio of the charter boat **Vivienne** has been doing handily on the stripes on umbrellas and diamond jigs. Twenty-five stripers was the body count for Monday's efforts and 33 on Tuesday. The fish have been feeding heavily on sand eels. This Monday as we were taking fishing reports, we got word from John that he already had 10 bass in the boat by 9AM, two of which were over 40 lbs.

We learned from charter boat **Montauk** that the blackfishing has definitely begun in earnest. Thursday's first blackfish trip saw a load of the toothy critters caught in the 5 to 10 lb. range. Fares also had 25 cod from 5 to 10 lbs. All of this was at Southwest Ledge on green crabs. On the way back in that afternoon, six stripers were umbrellaed at the Point in just two hours, fish to 32 lbs.

Word from the **Viking Fleet** is that cod, blacks and a few porgies were caught fair Saturday and very good Sunday at Block Island. Sunday's cod count was 150 plus fish up to 40 lbs. George Circle took the pool Sunday with a 41 lber. He had some big pollock too, to bring back home to Carle Place.

Aboard the charter boat **Nostalgia II** we learned that Dick Latinsky on a one man charter jigged four stripers to 12 lbs. on Sunday morning's trip with a load of blues mixed in. In the PM Dick had 65 blacks to 6½ lbs. on green crab.

Captain Bud Dorman of the 6 man limit open boat **Waxed** continues striped bass fishing with mixed size blues added in. With the exception of Wednesday's morning half-day, bass have been caught each trip and all on diamond jigs. Cod have also been diamond jigged as close as a half mile

Shinnecock Canal

• BLACKS
• SEA BASS

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Offshore Wreck Trips Every Wednesday & Saturday 8 A.M.
Flounders Every Thursday & Friday 8 A.M.

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Capt. Brian (516) 731-2108

from Montauk Light.

Aboard Capt. Joe McBride's charter boat **My Mate** Saturday two bass were taken in the afternoon on the south side along with loads of big blues on umbrellas. Sunday's charter which the boat had donated to Sea Grant earlier in the year saw Dan Azzato and friends from Grumman bail blues and managed two stripers to 10 lbs. Joe wishes to thank all his customers who sailed with him this year and hopes to see you back in '84.

Aboard the charter boat **King Wayne** , very big blackfish were caught on the weekend in the Gull Island area. On Thursday's trip over 150 huge Cartwright blues were taken on bait with a few bass being jigged at the Point. Saturday's trip for East Bay Anglers saw nearly 100 blackfish caught up to 12 lbs. while Sunday's trip for Fred Dombo and club members hoisted 85 blacks at Little Gull.

Capt. Bill Ricca of the charter boat **Alyssa Ann** fished a half day charter on Sunday for Larry Murphy and Steve Bolten. The pair used 4 ounce diamond jigs to taken 51 blues in the 10-15 pound class working around the Elbow and along the south side of the point. Bill added that he knew of good catches of blackfish made at Little Gull Island as well as at Southwest Ledge over the weekend.

John Singer caught his first bass ever while fishing with Jason Colby at Great Eastern on Wednesday. The 31 pound striper took a bucktail being wire lined at Great Eastern.

SOUTH FORK

A call from Capt. Artie Lach of the **Sag Harbor** head boat **Wilhelric II** advised that Wednesday was the best day of the week with an estimated 1,000 blackfish bouncing on the deck. John and Matty Diol along with Jim DeVito, all of Skidmore's Fishing Station totaled 104 blackfish. Jack Gleason and two pals scored with 75. Pool winner was Mr. N. Schnuiel with a 12½ lber. Sunday's fishing was equally as good with the pool fish in the 11 lb. class. Blackfishing is red hot and getting hotter said the skipper. Request from Captain Lach: On Sunday afternoon the boat's mate left a notebook measuring 6''x8''x1'' in the cabin on the way home. The book contained vital Loran C numbers Artie requests that this book be returned since it has lots of vital information in it. No questions will be asked. Returning by mail is okay also. You can send the book to our office at LIF. Also note that the boat will be sailing Friday, November 11th, Veterans Day.

From **Speck's Tackle Shop** in **Southampton**, Thom Speckenbach told of good flounder fishing in the basket area. On Saturday he saw a catch of 60 flatties up to 1½ pounds made by a group of four Bronx anglers. The Shinnecock Canal has had some flounder also but most of these fish have been on the small side. Still some blackfish being taken at the Inlet rocks.

The **Hampton Bays** open boat **Jenny Rose** told of good blackfishing on the ocean wrecks and also inside Peconic Bay. Most fares have been taking between 20 and 30 blacks with the largest going between 8 and 10 pounds. On Sunday, Joan Hemingway took the pool with an 8.5 pound black while Sue Patterson was high hook with 27 tautogs. Flounder fishing in the Basket area has been pretty good with fares managing similar catches of fish averaging 1 pound-some to 2 pounds. On Friday, Walt Johnson took the pool with a 2½ pound flattie.

South Shore REPORT

with Fred Colofaro

Flounder fishing now well established in both bays with Moriches having an edge at this point of the season. Lots of big bluefish remain outside both Inlets and the best blackfishing is now on the ocean wrecks and reefs rather than inside the bays where fishing appears to be petering out.

MORICHES BAY & INLET

A good week of fishing according to Jim Greene of **L & M Marine** in **East Moriches**. Although flounder fishing has been good the flatties received some stiff competition from other species. In the flounder department, Walter Phillips and Ed Lancaster showed 40 nice fish to 2 pounds taken

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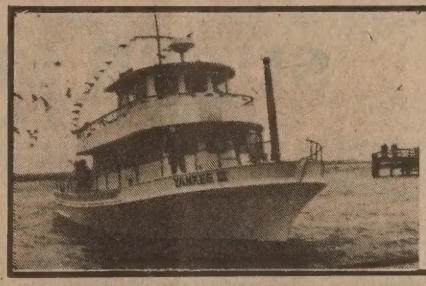

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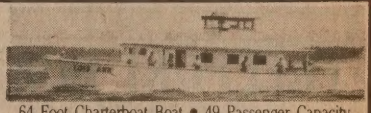

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TODAY'S RELEASE TOMORROW'S CATCH

near buoy 42 on mussel bait and chum on Saturday. Same day, Gene Amurri of the Leatherneck, along with Paul Spaeth and his eleven year old son George trolled 30 blues in the 10-15 pound class on the inlet bars with umbrella rigs. Tony Kalisak and Ted and Greg Daniels chose Saturday to take 30 blacks on fiddler crabs near the inlet jetty. Some big stripers still reside in Moriches Inlet as evidenced by the catch made by John Frame on Thursday. Drifting live eels inside the inlet, John put away bass of 47 and 36 pounds and topped off his fishing with a dozen big blues.

Gary Grunseich of **Silly Lilly Fishing Station** in **East Moriches** spoke of lots of flounder east of Haven's Point and at buoys 41 and 42. He figured most rentals managed 40-80 flatties apiece using worms and plenty of mussel chum. Some boats do much better. On Wednesday, Tom Bauer and Steve Lowenthal put away 104 flatties to 2 pounds. On Saturday, Charlie Coffie, George Linkus and Bob Cagnone teamed to take 109 flounder up to 2 pounds.

GREAT SOUTH BAY/ FIRE ISLAND INLET

From his **Patchogue** tackle shop, Paul Graniello of **J & J Tackle** told of pretty fair flounder fishing off of Howell's Point, Bellport and at Heckscher on worms and clams. Some small flounder are being taken from the Patchogue docks and lots of white perch being taken at Tuthills Creek. Use worms or killies for the perch.

Dave Canale of **J & R Sports Center** in **Oakdale** spoke of some decent flounder fishing at Heckscher Park and at buoy 2. Fishing has improved considerably in the past couple of weeks. Dave heard of at leas one good catch of cod taken from an offshore wreck this weekend and also told of plenty of big blues still sitting outside the inlet. Some nice size white perch are being taken in the Connetquot. Dave weighed a pair of perch at 2 and 2½ pounds for a couple of youngsters who took these and others on worms. A lot of nice trout in the 12-15" range coming from Bubbles and Rattles.

Over at **Peppy's Tackle Shop** in **East Islip**, Irene Cioffi spoke of a pretty good showing of flounder locally for boatmen working off of

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Islip and Heckscher. Use worms or clam and mussel or clam chum. Plenty of big blues outside the inlet for trollers and no word on the blackfishing at Kismet this week although plenty of people bought bait.

Bobby Sprenger at **Captree Bait Station** said that blacks are thinning out in the bay although a few are stil being taken at the Robert Moses Fishing Piers. A few flounder being taken at the Captree and Overlook piers but the Jones Beach piers have had a big edge in the number of flatties being taken.

Capt. Charlie Kennedy of the **Captree** open boat **Capt. Joseph II** told of good blackfishing all week long with with only off day coming on Sunday which the skipper described as a slow pick. Saturday's fishing was very good with Matt D'Amio taking 27 tautogs including 5 in the 5-9 pound range. Catches now are made up of primarily blackfish with just a few sea bass mixing in.

Capt. Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** said they continue to do a job on the big blues, however the skipper did add that the **Speedy VI** will begin seeking cod on Saturday, November 12th. See their ad for details.

Capt. Gordon Roman of the **Captree** open boat **Captree Queen** spoke of fine flounder fishing thru the weekend. Some good size fish in the 1-2 pound class being taken on the Babylon clam flats with the larger fish being found in the bay and more but smaller fish being taken in the State Channel. Gordon, too, will be seeking cod by the end of the week. His first trip is slated for Friday at 6AM after which he will be sailing daily.

On Saturday's trip, L.I.F. staffer Stu Miller, Gary Barth and pal Dominick fished with the **Capt. Scotty 3**. Very good catches of jumbo blues were made both on diamond jigs and on bait. Jigs with red tails seemed to catch best. Gary caught the only codfish on the boat, a baccala of approximately 9 pounds.

From **Augie's Tackle Shop** in **Babylon**, Fred Austin said that flounder action has been improving steadily with some very nice fish being taken in the day. Ray Seagren of the Lee Ann checked in flatties of 2.9 and 2.4 pounds taken off of the Sewer Plant. On clammer returned from the Babylon Flats with a catch of 40 nice flatties. Big blues are along the beach in 20-30 feet of water for jiggers and trollers. Phil Fracalaveri of the Happy Hooker had a load of these fish during the week. Babylon Tuna Club member George Huggler won 2nd place in the Captree Open boat Capt. Scotty 3 season long boat pool with a 19.2 pound bluefish.

Ralph Angelillo, Sr., filling in for his son Ralph, Jr. while he treks through the woods on his annual venison quest said from **Z Crab Tackle** in **Copiague** that there has been some good flounder action in the Amity Cut, Massapequa Cove, Copiague Hole and Squaw Island. Fish are being taken on worms and clam or mussel chum. Still some blacks being taken at Kismet and the Coast Guard Station but action is not what it was a week or two ago.

Marie Combs, speaking from **Comb's Bait and Tackle** in **Amityville** told of good blackfishing at the 2nd

Wantagh Bridge on green crabs. Good numbers of small flounder being taken at West Island, Snake Creek and Four Corners on worms and clam or mussel chum. No word on any bass taken down at this end this past week.

West End REPORT
with Stu Miller

Though the gorilla bluefish are still around in big numbers, and in many areas, most of the open boats in this area are swinging over to cod. No doubt there will be heavy catches of blues mixed in with whatever cod are caught until the water cools down considerably from what it is now. There are still excellent tuna catches to be made for those making the trek offshore while inshore, flounder are still there to be had as are blackfish.

WEST END BAYS/ JONE'S INLET

From **Wanswer's Tackle** in **Seaford** comes word of fair to good flounder catches at Four corners, West Island, 2nd Wantagh bridge on worm bait and chumming with clam bellies. Blackfish are still a good item at all of the bridges on fiddlers and green crabs.

From **Merrick Tackle in Bellmore** comes more scoop of blackfish at the bridges. Scott weighed in an 8 lb. black for Phil Cook of Outcast Anglers. Flounder catches are generally running 6 to 12 keeper variety a man with catches being best out of Merrick Bay. Bluefish being taken from the beaches on Bombers and Needlefish plugs.

From the charter boat **Capt. Gary** came word of Sunday's trip for the Fish and Brew Fishing Club again bagging very good catches of blues on chum and diamond jigs. This was NW of Cholera. Fish averaged 16 lbs. with Paul Cardone taking the pool with a 22 lber. High hooks were Ron Carmen and Ben Taylor with 21 choppers each. Dave Rabbani breathed heavy as he landed an 18 lber. Over 150 blues were taken.

Word from the **StarstreaM II** is that the codfishing has gotten off to a start this week, though there have been more blues and sea bass caught than cod. Top score of the week was 30 cod on the boat for Thursday fishing deep water. Since Thursday, the boat's been out to 130 feet of the wet stuff, taking mixed blues, cod, sea bass and blackfish. The summer species are

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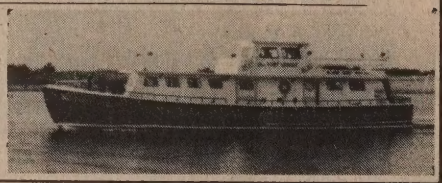

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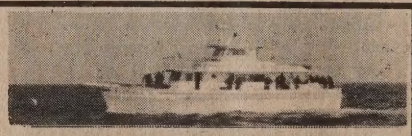

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making their fall exodus and cod are expected to be moving in, in strength, momentarily. A few cod were picked each day, except for Sunday.

We learn from the **Blue Fin Fleet** that during the week some flounder fishing was done locally and to the east with fish taken to 1 lb. on worm and clam. Flounder high hook was Lyn Moji. On an offshore tuna trip, 12 bluefin tuna from 85 to 175 lbs. were caught. The pool went to Mike Rehberg, Brooklyn with the 175 lber. A fish of 104 lbs. was caught by Dan Viafore. Bait used was butterfish and all anglers utilized belt harnesses only. A lot of fish were dropped said the skipper. Blues up to 20 lbs. were also caught as a by-catch. The boat still has a few choice cod and blackfish dates open.

From the **Capt. Al** comes word that while very few cod have been caught so far this week, but loads and loads of blues are being bailed each trip. Sea bass up to 8 lbs. have also been taken along with a lot of blacks and a few porgies. Please note that the boat is now switching over to deadly serious cod fishing at 5AM every day.

A call from Capt. Al Bala of the charter boat **Nicky B** told of Sunday's trip for the John Santoro group which had 20 big blues from 14 to 16 lbs. on chum and butters south of Ambrose.

Super flounder fishing all week was the word from the **Capt. Lou Fleet**. On the full day boat, Monday saw Fred Hornsby with 63 flounder. Tuesday, regular Bruce had 68, while George Freel of Richmond Hills, had 58. On Wednesday, Ed Hauser loaded up with 53 flounder while Joe Defabio hoisted 55. On Thursday, six fares had nearly 350 flatties. Aboard the half day boat there was equally great action with Monday's high hook being 60 flounder. Wednesday, Ted Wallace of BelAir Queens bagged up with 62. On Friday, Dave Ryder had 40. Saturday saw Pearl Mandel with 52. On Sunday John Mocarski landed 53 flatties. Annalisa Smith of Freeport had 42. Steve and Jay Werner of Flushing socked it to 65 flounder. Fishing has been done in the back bays and fish are running 3/4 to 1½ lbs.

Down in **Pt. Lookout** we hear from **Ed's Fishing Station** that the flounder are getting bigger with Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday having pretty decent catches. Best areas have been Swift Creek off the houses and the CG area. The flats have been productive also. Blackfishing continues fair at the local bridges with the Meadowbrook slowing most of all. Blackfishing is not as red hot as it was a week ago.

We learn from the **Miss Point Lookout** that this week has seen the best flounder fishing of the season so far with big numbers of fish being caught. On Monday Tony Ziegamia had 30. Tuesday's AM trip saw Tony Vellini with 32 flounder and Irwin Heck with 30. Wednesday saw very good catches in the AM with Philip Morris taking 40. Pete Bertolini and

Charlie Wanderer had over 100 between them Wednesday fishing both trips. Earl French had 20 fish plus a pool winner Wednesday afternoon. Saturday's AM trip had Dylan Liberg with the pool plus 25 other keepers. Mike Balsamo of Point Lookout had 52 flounder. Saturday's PM trip had Pam Wernan, a first timer take the pool. On Sunday's AM trip Karen Meyar took the pool with a 1¾ lber. Sunday PM was a slaughter. Art Hunstein had over 40 flounder. Regan Murray had 24 and 2-year-old Dorian Jo Murray got her first flounder ever. Over 500 flatties were caught on Sunday's afternoon trip with Reynolds Channel being the main hit. Bob Satorsky had 32 flounder Sunday morning. Please note that the boat is going to the shipyard from November 14/18 and will definitely be back sailing by Saturday, perhaps even by Friday.

From the **Capt. Bill** comes word of last weeks excellent flounder fishing with high hooks in the 20s to low 30s. Due to weather the boat did'nt sail Thursday or Friday. The weekend had very good catches also with high hooks in the high 20s on all of the half day trips. Bill has been working the back bays primarily.

From the charter boat **Marie III** we hear of Saturday's trip for a group from Middletown, NY. Good catches of blacks were had up to 10 lbs. 2 oz., sea bass to 3 lbs., all on green crab and clam. Action was on an inshore wreck. Lots of big blackfish were caught between 4 and 5 lbs.

The main word from **Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook** is of good flounder catches in Reynolds on worm and clam chum and also fair to good blackfishing at the bridges, jetties and piers.

From **Long Beach Sports Marina** we hear of excellent blackfish catches at the Atlantic Beach bridge and the gong buoy (in front of Silver Pt. jetty), fish to 6 lbs. on fiddler and green crabs. Flounder catches good through Reynolds channel, especially buoy 9. Big blues to 16 lbs. on trolled bunker spoons in Debs.

Captain Ron Lepper of the Atlantic Beach charter boat **Kim** said that last week's einds put a crimp in the striper fishing. While Thursday and Friday saw fair results, Saturday was poor and Sunday very poor. Most fish have been under 10 lbs. and a few over the new 24 inch limit. Immense schools of huge 15 lbs. and up bluefish have been ripping through the areas of Debs Inlet to Breezy Point, saving the day for many boats. Hopes are for a good number of fish over the 24 inch limit.

Al at **Reynolds Reef Fishing Station** felt that the blackfish are thinning out. Schoolie bass being taken at the Tin Can and Romer Shoals for the larger fish. Umbrellas with white tubes seem to be working best. Blues are all over the place said Al and flounder are being caught around the railroad trestle, the whole east of the ABB, Duck Point and Bannister

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NEW YORK BIGHT

To the west in **Sheepshead Bay**, Charlie at **Mike's Tackle** has weighed in a 23 lb. blue taken Saturday at the Farms on bait by Russ Park. Russ had 18 other blues from 10 to 23 lbs. and hails from Poughkeepsie, NY. The bluefish are fabulous in numbers and size. Stripers are being trolled at the Breezy Point jetty on worms at night and umbrellas sporting green Nordic tails at night. Absolute best fishing is in the early AM hours. Blackfish action has been very good with a 14 lber. being weighed in and several 8 and 10 lbers. The blues and the blacks are being caught at 17 Fathoms. Flounder have been picky at Manhattan Beach, Jamaica Bay and the Sheepshead Bay piers.

From the open boat **Pastime II** we learn that flounder remain good to excellent for their passengers. On Tuesday John Small was high hook with 25. Wednesday John Connolly bagged 16. The weekend saw a new body of large flatties at Plum Beach. Sunday, Deepwater John had 17 flounder, 1½ to 2 lbs. on mussels. Sunday's pool fish hit 2¼ lbs. on the scale. The skipper said it looks like the flounder will be around quite awhile yet.

From Capt. Bob of the **Flamingo III** the news is about all the big bluefish in the 10 to 20 lb. range that fares have been catching everyday on bait and jigs. There's no sign of its stopping, said Bob. Crowds are light and now's the time to mop up bags and bags of blues without a million tangles. The boat has been working 17 Fathoms, Farms, the Mud Hole and wrecks.

A call from the **Elsie K III** advised the flounder fishing is really good now. Sunday's high hook was 25 fish up to 1¾ lbs. on worm and mussel. The boat has been fishing off Staten Island. Catches are expected to increase even more as the water temperature goes down.

North Shore REPORT
with Marty Carrell

The weekend proved to be another windy one, but the larger craft that worked the Sound enjoyed productive fishing on blackfish. Enough bluefish remained to make news and bassfishing on schoolies was available most everywhere.

EDITORIAL: TOO VALUABLE TO BE CAUGHT ONCE!

(Continued from page 4.)

is a special case here to be considered. Right now striped bass stocks are at their lowest levels in almost a century. Special thought should be given to letting all the bass go.

Can fish be released successfully? Yes; not all of those you catch, but many can be released successfully. A badly damaged fish, one that is bleeding heavily will not likely survive, but those that aren't badly damaged will survive with great certainty. Care must be taken in the method of release, however. Small fish are generally overcome by tackle and unless the hook has induced heavy injury, they can be unhooked carefully and gently released into the water; no reviving should be necessary. Large specimens require a bit of effort. Large fish are not usually overcome by tackle too easily. They struggle hard to gain freedom and in so doing they often go into shock. Thus, after they have been carefully unhooked, the fish should be "walked" for a minute or two. This is done by leaning over the side of the boat or wading into the water. Support the fish's head gently with one hand under its gills and hold the base of the tail with the other hand. Don't squeeze too hard. Move the fish back and forth for a minute or two. Release the hand under the head. Does the fish stay erect or turn on its side? If it turns on its side return your hand to support the head and continue to move the fish back and forth in the water for a few additional minutes. If the fish stays erect, then continue to move it back and forth in the water and jiggle it a bit from time to time. The fins should be erect and the gills should be working strongly. You will feel the fish pulling. Don't leave go at first; rather hold on a few seconds longer. When the fish pulls with strength, release it. Do not be alarmed if the fish goes off slowly. Remember, its muscles are tired from the fight and it will naturally move off slowly. If the fish takes off like a shot—so much the better.

Being a recreational fisherman implies that we are sportsmen; that we go fishing for the fun of fishing. If that isn't the main reason, why not get a net? If indeed we are sportsmen, then Lee Wulff's words should have very special meaning to us. "A game fish is too valuable to be caught only once!"

William A. Muller

WESTERN SOUND

Jack Rumpf at **Jack's Bait** on **City Island** said that a lot of boats worked on blackfish Sunday with some fish over 10 pounds. Most of the action was off Pea Island Reef in 30' of water. Flounder fishing with sandworms and bloodworms was very, very good in the Bay on a running tide.

From the **Glen Cove Sport Shop**, Dave Watt reported decent flounder fishing in the regular spots, Dosoris, Pryble Beach, and Morgan's. Small stripers were available off Center Island Beach, Bayville, and Glen Cove with worm trollers taking many small fish. There were bundles of 10-15 inch bass. Blackfish were available in shallow water off Bayville but the West Island wrecks and Stahle's had fish to 6 pounds.

The **Klondike VIII** from **New Rochelle** plans to sail beyond Thanksgiving. Pete Pearson is very happy with local blackfishing. Dom Cerbone of the **Apache** from **City Island** is fishing anywhere from 40 to 70 feet of water off the Norwalk Islands. Tautog range from 2-10 pounds with greens and fiddlers both producing many doubleheaders. Waters seem to be cooling early and the deep water spots are getting good right now.

NORTH SHORE MID-ISLAND

George Valentine of **Four Winds Tackle** in **Huntington** told of very good bass action at Eaton's Neck with lots of school fish and an occasional fish into the 20's being taken. Mixed blues and bass are being taken on jigs and umbrellas while most of the larger bass are being taken on worms, an important consideration now that the 24" Limit is in effect. Billy Collins had bass of 34, 22 and 16 pounds in his catches this weekend. Excellent blacks at 24C including lots of 5-8 pounders on greens and fiddlers.

Ralph's in **Mount Sinai** said that blackfishing off the Middle Ground was very good with fish of 8, 9 and 10½ pounds reported on the scales. Fish are in deeper water beyond the Green Buoy. Sunday morning's crew found some flounder on the outside, but most flatfishermen are in the harbor. Blues were all over for those who used umbrellas or diamonds. On catch of 12 schoolies was mentioned but there were some linesiders in the 6-15 pound range underneath the bluefish.

Sutler's in **Port Jefferson** mentioned some big blues to 18 pounds still taking chunks with bass off the beaches for those who fished Redfins with Red Gill teasers. Many bass are shorts, but there are a few in the 20's. The Ferry Dock even had some blues.

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The **Ever Ready** stayed with blues and bass over the weekend. The Huntinton boat reported bass catches from one to 12 fish per angler with the largest linesider around 13 pounds. Most of the schoolies are 3-4 pounders caught on Trifin 2 ounce jigs off Eaton's. The last trip Packy Collin schedules for this season is the 13th, and he'll be concentrating on tautog during the last three days.

Billy Collins had a couple of charters last week on the **Packy IV**. Larry Kopp party had one of the finest scores. They accounted for 14 bass to 24 pounds with five stripers over 12.

NORTH FORK

Art White from the **A.P. White Bait Shop** in **Greenport** said that flounder fishing in Orient Harbor was "great" with a lot of nice sized fish. Pipes cove was also producing good flatfish

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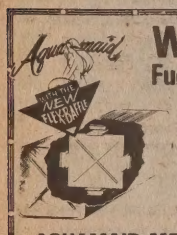

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catches. Bass were in the Gut and off of all the Sound beaches from Horton's to Orient.

Blackfishing has been described as "out of this world" in various North Fork locations. George Porter had been mostly fishing wrecks in over 45' of water on strong tides. Two hours on the change is the critical period to catch your fish. The **Brand X** reported ten fish over 10 pounds on Sunday with pool fish in the 11-12 pound class. Ralph Hennley weighed a 12-1 tautog at White's and Carlton Mallory weighed a fish of 8½ pounds on Saturday.

Larry Ciccotto has been fishing north of the Gull and Plum, and, after suffering a broken bowspirit on Saturday in northerly gles, he did reasonably well Sunday. Better black; fishing now in 50 feet of water than up close says Ciccotto. The last three days of the **Prime Time** will be this coming Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

John Rainis has been out nearly every day off Gull in deep water to 55 feet with some big fish despite the new moon tides. The **Blue Albatross** will be sailing as a weekend charter, weekday open boat, through the 20th when Rainis will switch to an open boat schedule for the remainder of the season.

John Duggan enjoyed very good fishing in deep water all weekend. He took the **Peconic Star** over to the Connecticut side when Gull became crowded over the weekend. The boat will be switching to weekend sailing after the 20th of the month. Lou Colon weighed a 10-2 tautog taken aboard the boat on Sunday.

Surf REPORT
with Fred Golofaro

Big blues provided solid action along much of the south shore this week. In closing last week's report we indicated that a bluefish blitz was under way along a wide stretch of south shore beachfront. Those last minute reports proved correct except that the wildest fishing occurred west of Moriches and was spread through Fire Island, Robert Moses, Gilgo and Jones Beach. Parking field 4 Robert Moses appeared to be the focal point of activity for many casters who wore themselves out on blues that ranged between 10 and 18 pounds. The fishing carried over into Tuesday as well although Tuesday's action came to a halt by early afternoon unlike Monday's fishing which lasted from daybreak to sundown. During the course of the week and weekend, big blues made regular raids all along the south shore from Southampton west

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into the Rockaways. Every beach had its moments with some, such as Gilgo providing better action on bait, while other areas produced plenty of good action on tins. Lots of stripers in the news again with the bulk of them coming from Montauk which has been the case for much of the fall. Further, the vast majority of the fish are being taken by the wet suit brigade. Plenty of small stripers spread along most of the north shore from Bayville to Horton's Point but most of these fish are at the opposite end of the spectrum from the cows at Montauk. The majority range up to 5 or 6 lbs. with an occasional larger fish into the teens being taken here and there. This is what this week's search revealed.

Thornton Booker of Arverne and a member of the Gateway Striper Club used a yellow Danny plug to dupe a 42.14 lb. striper in the Fort Tilden surf early Wednesday AM. His sidekick, Bob Ross did one better when he parleyed a live mullet into the maw of a 44.7 lb. striper in the same area. Both fish were checked by Charlie Beckmann of **Beckmann's Tackle Shop in Lynbrook.**

According to Fred Austin of **Augie's Tackle Shop in Babylon** most of the surf news in the Gilgo-Cedar area has concerned big bluefish. However, Al Slawata managed to slip stripers of 38.10, 16.5 and 13.1 lbs. out of the suds at Gilgo Friday night. He was back the next night to take fish of 40.4 and 26.3 lbs. Rumor has it that some casters working this area were using live mullet to take bass. Biggest blue weighed in over the weekend was a 17½ pounder taken at field 4, Robert Moses by John Gremmo on Saturday. He took it on a Hopkins.

Charlie "Tuna" confirmed the blitz of big blues in the Gilgo area on Monday. He told of taking 17 big fish on bait that day. The area continued to produce fish throughout most of the week and weekend with the emphasis here on baitfishing. Mackerel, bunker and eels all accounted for action. Parking field 4 Robert Moses, as mentioned earlier, repeatedly produced action with big blues this past week. This past Sunday provided most casters with four to five big choppers on tin and another Monday morning phone call revealed that the fish were again being taken into the late morning. While many blues in the 15 to 17 lb. range came from this beach, one of the larger fish was taken by Great South Bay Angler club member Marty Beer who used a darter to nail a chopper of 18½ lbs. If that fish wasn't enough of a chore, another big blue of about 12 lbs. grabbed a second hook on the same plug. The second fish was dropped in the wash.

To the east, Paul Graniello of **J&J Tackle in Patchogue** said that big blues were in and out along the beach from the inlet west to Davis Park. He noted that the latter spot has been hot all fall, but was quick to remind that the only access is by boat to the bay side and then walking the boardwalk to the ocean side. Phil Rizzutto and Dennis McKenna wore themselves out on Wednesday in this area when they tangled with 60 blues in the 10 to 16 lb. range. FINS, which has been closed down to buggies more times than not, produced plenty of action Saturday morning at Long Cove. Other casters have been walking down in front of the ranger station and picking away at the blues. Still others are fishing right in front of the Smith Point Pavilion and enjoying a pretty steady pick of big blues. There was also talk of at least two 30 lb. stripers that came from the Slough in front of the lot. Paul weighed one of those. It was taken Saturday morning by Victor Ruzicka on a Hopkins. On the scale, the cow weighed 29.2 lbs. All is not blues and stripers despite the late date on the calendar. Paul weighed a 7 lb. weak for Steve Musso on Wednesday. It was taken on a swimming plug.

An impressive tally of big stripers fell to Montauk casters this week and weekend. The undisputed "hot lure" has been the Needlefish plug. It has been responsible for most of the big stripers taken here over the past couple of weeks with big bottles and darters picking up the slack. Johnny Kronuch of **Johnny's Tackle Shop in Montauk** said that action late in the week and on the weekend was concentrated between North Bar and

(Continued on page 39.)

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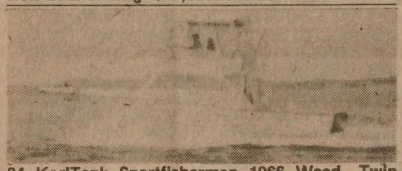

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1966 31 Bertram Bahia Mar. Recond; ready for engines.
1977 31 Columbia, twin 270, tower. Full elec.
1974 28 Luhrs Sedan, 225 Chrysler.
1978 26' SeaRay Express Cruiser I/O
1974 25 Chris Craft Tournament tower, twin 130.
1983 235 Mako 235 Evinrude.
1976 23 Mako, 175 Johnson.
1937 17' Chris Craft Speed Boat.
1979 28' Topaz, tower, twin MTD 40 diesels. Full elec. w/fighting chair.
1979 26' Slickcraft
26' Bluefin - tower, fresh engines. Equipped.
20' Shamrock cuddy, 225 Merc. Nice.
28' 1967 Hatteras flybridge, twin 225.
1979 28' Topaz, tower, twin MTD 40 diesels. Full elec. w/fighting chair.
Call SEA JAC BROKERS, Jacksons Marina. 728-4220. Tom or Chris.

BOAT WANTED
33' Egg Harbor Sportfisherman; 30' Chris Craft Sportfisherman, or 31' Bertram. Eves. 516-757-9514.

1965 Evinrude 9.5 hp. Perfect running cond. $125. West Islip. 661-9363.

23' THUNDERBIRD Fiberglas I/O 165 hp Mercruiser. Lo hrs. on new engine. Will trade for larger wooden boat in exl. cond. 212-833-4198.

1982 GRADY WHITE 22' Bimini cuddy. 1983 Evinrude 200 hp T&T, 75 hrs. Bought brand new 1983. Every opt. on boat. Plus 2 Penn 620 downriggers; Maxi Horizon VHF, OMC tracker 2000. Si-Tex HE 356 paper rec. Quest spotlight. $20,000. 516-922-3721.

41 '68 HATTERAS 8V53s SF, radar, Loran, Rybo chair, microwave. Nice $89,000. 516-643-2882; 516-543-7120.

AQUASPORT 1980 24' 6 CCC w/7000 lb. Trl, 235 Johnson, 35 Johnson, dual Morse controls, tuna tower, elec. box, DF, VHF, CB, AM/FM, SW washdown, bow rail. Teak fish platform, outriggers, downriggers, pole holders. Full instruments. Lit for nightfishig. Full canvas extras. $18,950 Firm. Days 543-7255. Eves: 724-8710.

1977 CRESTLINER I/O 260 hp Mercruiser. Excl. cond. 90 gal. gasoline tank, Loran, paper regorder, sea temp. gauge, VHF, gin pole. Many, many extras. $11,300. 212-343-5226.

CHRIS CRAFT Corsair, 1969 I/O OMC, FB, 23' V-6 155 hp. Needs some engine work. Moving; must sell. $3000. After 6. 212-381-6149.

MAKO 224, center console, deep-V, 1980-81, 22' 6'' w/235 & 15 hp Evinrudes, trailer, Loran, VHF, recorder, custom leaning post. Rocket launcher, etc. Canyon fisherman. Mint. Priced right. 516-666-4184.

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1979 F.L. Tripp 22' Complete Angler, 305 C.I. I/B, FWC. Forward & stern controls; DF, VHF, 5 hp O/B. $14,950. After 6PM. 765-5675/5395.

1983 36' SEA RAY EXPRESS Twin Mercruisers w/less than 100 hrs. Electronics & extras? This one has it all. Excl. buy at $116,000. NAUTICAL SERVICE YACHT SALES, 305-848-6292. Call for other fine yachts.

26' PACEMAKER Wahoo, 10' beam, 270 Crusader, C/C w/cuddy, legal head. Full electronics; Loran C, fighting chair, gin pole, flying gaff-all new. SW Washdown. 212-474-6422.

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Radar, Loran, autopilots, VHF, SSB, fish recorders. Sales & service most major brands. Custom installations. MARITIME COMMUNICATIONS, Inc., 377 Woodcleft Ave., Freeport, NY, 516-623-4421.

GEMTRONICS White Line recorder-$135. Boat power winch-$95. Both very good cond. 516-764-5798.

BOAT TRAILERS FOR RENT: Single & Tandem axle. Daily, weekly, monthly rates. Temporary & permanent hitches for Sale or Rent. BARN TRAILER SERVICE, 57-06 B'Way, Woodside, NY. 212-426-7039.

Continued On Next Page

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TUNA TOWERS, HALF TOWERS & RADAR ARCHES—Custom made to your specifications. Anodized aluminum construction; welded joints. Delivered & fitted to your boat. Controls optional. Free estimates. Also self-inflating life rafts. Custom made radio & control boxes. Call Bob Christian, Eves: 516-979-9193.

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3 Watt, 78 ch. Marine hand-held VHF radio w/heavy duty NICAD batt., AC wall charger & flex antenna. While they last: $299. SEAWAY COMMUNICATIONS, Lindenhurst. 516-957-7171.

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COMPLETE your winterizing process by protecting exposed parts. After removing your Mercruiser O/D for winter storage. This unique protective cover & gasket will seal out all dirt, grit & rain. Trim cylinder support bar shown in photo optional. Send $19.95 for cover & gasket. For support bar add $2.50, to: ROSATO'S MARINE, 37 Beach Av., Copiague, NY 11726. 516-842-2030. NY res. add tax plus shpng. $1.25.

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Electronics Pkg.—standard VHF, Cobra CB, Mecca 6'' white line chart recorder. Complete pkg. only. Make offer. 516-567-9249.

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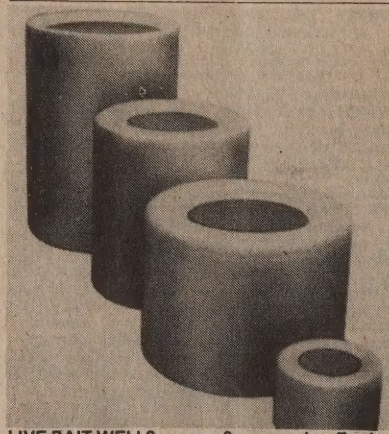

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FISHING FOR FLUKE by Don Kamienski, packed w/info on drifting, trolling & locating fluke. Baits, rigs, ''dropback,'' casting lures; bay, river, ocean methods. 112 pgs; many diagrams. $4.95 + $.75 shipping. THE FISHERMAN LIBRARY, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Rick Town, NJ 08723.

ANGLING IDEAS. Pete Barrett & Tim Coleman's book of ''how-to'' on striped bass, cod, flounder, blues, Loran, sharks & small boat. 96 pgs.; many diagrams. $3.95 + $.75 shipping. BARRETT & COLEMAN PUBLICATIONS, 339 Herbertsville Rd., Brick Town, NJ 08723.

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Scallop bags, links, rings, polly prop line. Polly tarps: 8x10, $7.00; 12x15, $15.00; 12x25, $25.00; 20x40, $65.00. COOPERES GALLERY, W. Water St., Sag Harbor, NY 11963. 516-725-0661

DEER HUNTERS—Have your deer weighed, skinned, cut, freezer wrapped. Only $30. 15th big year. Bob Beamish, 665-8839. Enter Babylon Sports Barn free Big Deer contest. Prizes, free butchering. Call for details. 669-2323.

HUNTERS, make a beautiful gun rack out of your deer hoofs this season. Do it yourself kit - $6.95. Bob, 665-8839. Finished feet available.

WANTED: De-Icing System with/without thermostat. Similar to Ice-Eater or Ice Demon. Eves: 516-643-7157 Joe.

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Personalized Surf Fishing Instruction with LIF Editor & Surf Fishing columnist, Fred Golofaro. Fishing from a 1984 Ford Bronco. One or two anglers—day & night trips. All tackle supplied. 516-581-0077.

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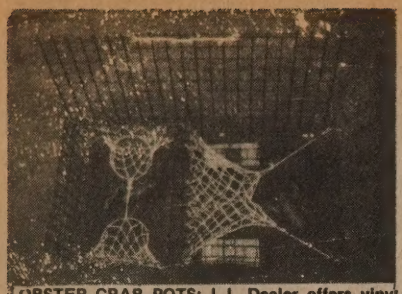
Free copy of ''Outboard Winterizing Procedure.'' Stop in for your copy. Also, discount prices on winterizing supplies. BURCK, 526 City Island Ave., Bronx, NY. 212-885-1559.



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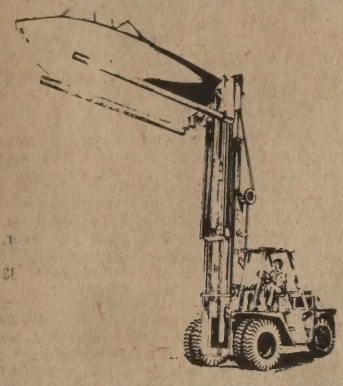

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South Shore Marina desires Service Manager. Heavy experience Evinrude, Johnson, OMC, Mercruiser. Good salary & extra benefits. Send Resume to: P.O. BOX 418, Seaford, NY 11783.

HUNTERS' SPECIAL: Any doe or buck deer shoulder mounted on custom panel w/name plate-$125. Any size B/Bear shoulder mount-$200; Ducks-$85; Geese-$180. Turkeys-$150. Quail-$65; Pheasants-$76. Life size mounts fox-$300. Squirrels-$65. B-Bear-$500. W/T Deer-$500. Note: I have mounted rattlesnakes, trophy size for sale. $150 ea. mount. Many other fish, birds & animals for sale. INWOOD TAXIDERMY, 516-239-7716.

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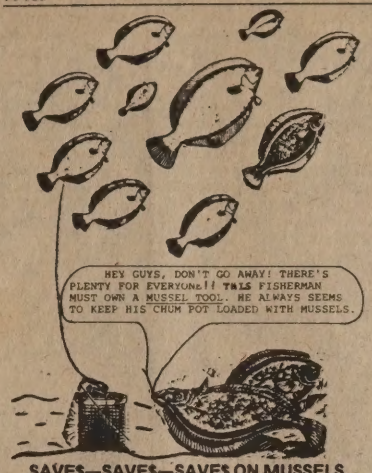
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FISHING FOR FLUKE by Don Kamienski. Packed w/info on drifting, trolling & locating fluke. Baits, rigs, "dropback," casting lures, bay, river, ocean methods. 112 pgs.; many diagrams. $4.95 + $.75 shipping. THE FISHERMAN LIBRARY, 339 Herbertsville Rd. Brick Town, NJ 08723. TFN

FISH IDENTIFICATION CHART—shows 85 salt & fresh water species native to our East Coast. Lithographed in beautiful, lifelike color on heavy, coated stock. Suitable for framing, size 36"x24". Send CK or M.O. for $9.95 to: P. MILLER, 150 Babylon Tpke, Merrick, NY 11566.

FLUKE, COD & BLUE FISHERMEN! Heavy duty rugged rubberized fisherman's apron! Keep your clothes clean while fishing, unhooking & cleaning fish. Cool & comfortable—not like wearing a wet suit. A must for every boat & fisherman; washes up like new! Send $9.95, incls. post. & hdlng. NJ residents incl. 6% sales tax to: KASTMOR, ASSOC., 357 Clark St., South Orange, NJ 07079. Dealer inquiries invited. 201-762-1288 Eves. TFN

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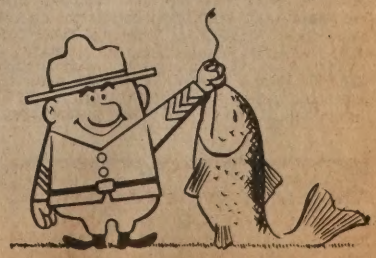
1970 Ford BRONCO, 1980 302 eng. Many extras & new parts. Set up for beach. No rust. Excl. cond. $2700 Firm. After 6PM. 516-887-4413.

Jones. Fishing up front under the light was extremely difficult due to the big heave which rolled onto the rocks most of the week. While bass received most of the attention here, Johnny said that there has been some action with big blues on the south side from Ditch Plains to Hither Hills on tin. This week's weigh-in list included bass of 46, 22 and 19 lbs. for Richie Rask. John Dietz had fish of 34, 31, and 30 lbs., Farragut Striper Club members Mickey Mazzatta and Richie Brown accounted for bass of 35 and 27 lbs., Sal Zanca had a 38, Artie Wilowski, a 36, Tommy Sepp a 29, Joe Guhanizk, a 39 and Gateway Fishing Club member Joe Kaloser, a 29 lber. Joey Bragan continues to make hay with the fish and at the same time is taking some big cows. His most recent was a 49.14 lber. Steve Bunai took a 22 and a 29, Jimmy Paulson had a 34.7 and a 44.12 while his partner Dave Young took a 22½ and a 36½. New Jerseyite Bob Lick went to work in his wet suit on Friday night between North Bar and False Bar and used the Needlefish plugs to put away stripers of 25, 30, 33, 34, 36 and 36 lbs.

Backtracking a bit to the Southampton ocean beaches, Thom Speckenbach of **Speck's Tackle Shop** had no bass to report, but told of lots of big blues on the beaches. Most are being taken on tin or tin and tube combos. Steve Mars weighed a 19½ lber. on Saturday, while Paul Hodges, Jr. whipped a 16½ lb. chopper on just 8 lb. test along the open beach.

The north shore was alive with small bass. Stan Hentschel of **Rocky Point Fishing Stop** said fish were spread from Pt. Jeff to Wading River and that on some nights he and friends had no trouble catching and releasing as many as 30 to 40 school bass. Occasional larger fish are mixed in such as the 18 lber. that Stan managed this week. The ticket has been RedFin and Red Gill dropper combos with the Smokey Joe or baby yellow bass finish the best RedFin patterns.

Out on the north fork, Ed Kopack of **Warren's Tackle in Aquebogue** said that bass up to 6 and 7 lbs. were taken on the same RedFin and Red Gill combos at Reeves, McCabes and Kenney's Beaches. Most of the fishing is from dusk into dark and there have been a few big blues mixed in. REports of plenty of school bass were also received from Center Island and Bayville and Matinecock Point to the west. A reminder that the 24 inch limit is in effect and is being enforced by DEC personnel. You can catch in return all of the under-sized fish you care to.



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